

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102



Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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Assistant U.S. Attorney:
JUDITH H. GERMANO
973-645-2885

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2008

Monmouth County Developer Sentenced to Two Years
for Bribing Authority Executive Director, Obstructing Justice

(More)

Public Affairs Office
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

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NEWARK – Monmouth County attorney and developer Bernard Meiterman was sentenced today to two years in federal prison for bribing a sewer authority official with thousands of dollars in architectural drawings to gain favor in getting sewerage service to projects in Marlboro Township, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton also fined Meiterman \$7,500 and ordered him to surrender to the federal Bureau of Prisons by Aug. 5.

Meiterman, 43, of Manalapan, and his brother Steven Meiterman, 44, of Marlboro, pleaded guilty Oct. 29, 2007, to a violation of a federal law known as the Travel Act (using the U.S. mail to facilitate corrupt payments to a public official). During the plea to that charge, the Meitermans also admitted obstructing the grand jury investigation into their dealings with Frank G. Abate, the then-Executive Director of the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority (WMUA), by coaching the architect on how to testify falsely before the federal grand jury investigating their dealings in Monmouth County.

Bernard Meiterman is an attorney and acted as general counsel to the Meiterman companies.

“The Meitermans were part of the culture of corruption that had come to infect Marlboro Township government,” Christie said. “As an attorney, Bernard Meiterman’s corrupt acts take on even greater significance.”

Edward Kay, 39, of Marlboro, the Meitermans’ business partner, an investor and bookkeeper in some of their real estate ventures, also pleaded guilty the same day as the Meitermans. Kay is scheduled for sentencing tomorrow before Judge Wigenton at 9:30 a.m. Steven Meiterman’s sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 8.

All three defendants admitted at their plea hearings to bribing Abate by paying for thousands of dollars in architectural drawings for Abate’s home in exchange for Abate exercising his authority for their benefit. Steven Meiterman and Bernard Meiterman further admitted coaching the architect to conceal the fact they had paid him for services on behalf of Abate, and to falsely inform law enforcement and a federal grand jury that he, the architect, “forgot” to bill Abate for the work.

Abate, of Marlboro, was convicted on May 25, 2007, following a two-week jury trial. On Aug. 13, 2007, Judge Wigenton sentenced Abate to 51 months in federal prison and fined him \$10,000.

All three defendants were initially arrested and charged by Indictment on Dec. 6, 2006, and a federal grand jury returned a Superseding Indictment against them on March 20, 2007.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Red Bank Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, with the investigation leading to the charges against the Meitermans and Kay.

Christie also credited Assistant U.S. Attorney Judith H. Germano of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Special Prosecutions Division, in Newark, who is prosecuting the case.

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Defense Counsel:

Steven Meiterman: Michael B. Himmel, Esq., and Maureen A. Ruane, Esq., Roseland
Bernard Meiterman: Edward J. Dauber, Esq., Newark
Edward Kay: Robert G. Stevens, Esq., Princeton