

NEWS

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Oaklyn Man Sentenced to 27 Months in Prison for Using Stolen
Identity Information to Defraud Nine Financial Institutions

(More)

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CAMDEN – An Oaklyn man was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison today for using stolen personal identifying information to defraud nine banking institutions, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle also ordered Joseph DeForge, 65, to pay \$171,259 in restitution and to serve 3 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Judge Simandle continued the defendant's release on a \$50,000 bond pending his surrender to officials with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on or before March 15.

DeForge pleaded guilty before Judge Simandle on June 9, 2009, to a one-count Information that charged him with bank fraud. At his plea hearing, DeForge admitted that from June 1999 until December 2008, he devised and operated a scheme to defraud nine financial institutions through materially false and fraudulent pretenses.

DeForge admitted that when he applied to the financial institutions (listed below) to open credit card accounts, he used stolen personal identifying information of other people, such as their names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth.

DeForge provided his own mailing address in conjunction with the credit card account applications, he admitted. As a result, when a bank opened a credit card account in the name of an identity theft victim, it sent all correspondence for that account to DeForge's address.

According to the Information, to which DeForge pleaded guilty, he used credit cards associated with the following fraudulently obtained credit accounts to obtain cash advances and to make purchases that totaled the amounts listed for each financial institution;

- Advanta Bank Corp., \$13,874;
- J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., \$81,614;
- Discover Bank, \$9,932;
- Bank of America Corporation, \$32,291;
- Citigroup Inc., \$23,413;
- Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., \$2,023;
- Credit One Bank, N.A., \$357;
- HSBC Bank USA, N.A., \$548;
- Washington Mutual Bank, \$7,203.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Simandle consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and

other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Postal Inspectors with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector in Charge David L. Collins, in Newark, and the U.S. Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Robert Slama in Philadelphia, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Stephen Stigall of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Maggie F. Moy, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender