



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**YUSILL SCRIBNER**

**REBEKAH CARMICHAEL**

**JANICE OH**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

**(212) 637-2600**

**FORMER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF TOMMY HILFIGER  
HANDBAG LICENSEE SENTENCED TO FIVE AND A HALF  
YEARS IN PRISON FOR \$19 MILLION FRAUD**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that MARTIN S. BODNER ("BODNER"), the former Chief Financial Officer of Tommy Hilfiger Handbags and Small Leather Goods Inc. ("THHB") -- a licensee of the Tommy Hilfiger Group -- was sentenced today by United States District Judge P. KEVIN CASTEL to 66 months in prison on mail fraud and wire fraud charges to which he pleaded guilty on September 15, 2008. The charges arose out of BODNER's theft, between about the middle of 2000 and the end of December 2007, of over \$19,090,000 from his employer.

According to the Information and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court, as well as statements made during BODNER's guilty plea and sentencing proceedings:

BODNER began working at THHB in Manhattan in March 2000, eventually becoming the company's Chief Financial Officer. Beginning in about the middle of that year, BODNER began stealing money from his employer by: (1) secretly increasing the amount of money that he was to be paid in salary and bonus; (2) arranging to be reimbursed by THHB for phony expenses he purportedly had incurred in the course of his employment; (3) adding one of his sons, who did not work for THHB during the years 2004 and 2005, to the company's payroll and arranging for his son to be paid approximately \$225,500 during those years; (4) causing hundreds of checks to be issued to various payees for the purpose of paying off BODNER's personal credit card bills, purchasing a luxury automobile for himself, paying for insurance for a home, apartments, and automobiles owned by BODNER, and paying for decorating services.

BODNER also used stolen money in, among other ways, to: (1) purchase, decorate, and furnish three Manhattan apartments, two of which were combined into a larger apartment; (2) purchase

a home in Sands Point, New York, that the defendant was in the process of rebuilding when his fraud was discovered; and (3) purchase luxury cars, including two Jaguars and two Audis.

In addition to the prison term, Judge CASTEL sentenced BODNER to 3 years of supervised release, and ordered him to pay a fine of \$12,500 and \$17,347,240.21 in restitution. In connection with his agreement to plead guilty, BODNER agreed to forfeit a home in Sands Point, New York, a Manhattan apartment, cars, and various other property.

BODNER, age 60, resides in Manhattan.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

The case is being handled by the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL W. LEVY is in charge of this prosecution.

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