



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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EVANSVILLE MAN INDICTED IN \$750,000 FRAUD SCHEME

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JAMES A. WRIGHT, 62, of Evansville, Indiana, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for bank fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud, and identity theft, following an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department.

The eight count indictment alleges that between August, 2005, and February, 2007, WRIGHT engaged in various schemes to defraud businesses and banks of about \$750,000..

The indictment alleges that WRIGHT obtained from a lender bank a commercial real estate loan and line of credit amounting to about \$95,000, based upon a series of fraudulent documents, including federal personal and corporate income tax returns, a certificate of incorporation and a warranty deed. The indictment further alleges WRIGHT obtained a personal loan of \$30,000 by submitting a false loan application to the lender bank, and a \$40,000 automobile by submitting a false loan application to a Kentucky car dealership. WRIGHT claimed that his gross annual salary was over \$100,000 and that he had no outstanding judgments. Both claims were false. The indictment also alleges WRIGHT utilized false loan applications to obtain about \$400,000 in a fraudulent real estate transactions, \$100,000 for a boat, and \$100,000 for a condominium in Florida.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, WRIGHT faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 30 years and a maximum possible fine of \$1,000,000 on each of the three bank fraud counts, a maximum possible prison sentence of 20 years and a maximum \$250,000 on each of the four counts charging wire/mail fraud, and one count of Aggravated Identity Theft, which carries an additional two years imprisonment. WRIGHT is currently in custody. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville, Indiana.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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