



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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## **LOCAL ATTORNEY PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT TO A BANK**

*Defendant defrauded local bank of over \$500,000*

**Lafayette, Louisiana** . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **JOSEPH C. KOSAREK**, age 51, formerly an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana and who specialized in real estate closings, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court to making a false statement to a local bank.

A Bill of Information was filed in October of this year charging KOSAREK with one count of making a false statement to a bank in connection with an investigation into activities regarding his business account at a bank in Abbeville, Louisiana in 2003. KOSAREK maintained an account which he used in his law practice in Abbeville, Louisiana, to close real estate transactions. In December 2003, after this account became overdrawn in an amount exceeding \$500,000, bank officials questioned KOSAREK about it. KOSAREK told bank officials that the overdrawn account was due to an error in paperwork and that it would be corrected, which he knew was a false statement.

KOSAREK faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, a \$1 million fine, or both. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been

abolished in the federal system.

KOSAREK voluntarily surrendered his law license in 2005.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Lafayette Resident Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly P. Uebinger.

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