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RICHARD PERNICI SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . RICHARD D. PERNICI, 50, of Shreveport, Louisiana, was sentenced Thursday by United States District Judge Donald E. Walter to a term of one year supervised probation and a \$5,000 fine, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. PERNICI plead guilty to a one-count Bill of Information on June 27, 2008, which charged wire fraud in connection with a mortgage loan application.

The federal investigation revealed that PERNICI faxed a verification for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining a loan in order to allow his girlfriend to purchase his home.

The one-count Bill charged that on April 12, 2005, PERNICI faxed in interstate commerce a verification of employment to New Century Mortgage claiming his girl friend worked for PWS, L.L.C., d/b/a Tri-Star Entertainment, as an Operations Manager since February 2000 and stating that the prospect of her continued employment was excellent. In fact, PERNICI knew that his girl friend was not employed as represented.

Additionally, PERNICI signed the verification of employment form fraudulently using the name of his former bookkeeper. In fact, at the time that the verification was signed, that person was no longer employed as a bookkeeper or in any other capacity by PWS, L.L.C., d/b/a Tri-Star Entertainment.

Although the mortgage was obtained with a fraudulent document, the loan is being paid and is not in default.

PERNICI faced a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 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.

This case was investigated by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is being prosecuted by First Assistant United States Attorney William J. Flanagan, and Assistant United States Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook.

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