



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER ATTORNEY INDICTED FOR FAILING TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former attorney was indicted by a federal grand jury today for failing to appear at his trial to face federal charges on Oct. 28, 2002.

Gary A. Love, 54, formerly of Ozark, Mo., was charged with failing to appear for trial in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield.

Love was a practicing attorney in the Springfield area from 1973 until his disbarment in September 2000, Graves said. **Love** controlled and operated various businesses, all of which are now dissolved, including Ozark Marine Design, Inc., New Horizon Marketing, Inc., Predator Props, Inc., and his law practice, Gary A. Love, P.C.

On March 22, 2002, **Love** was indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly defrauding more than \$1 million from a group of his clients and others through an investment scheme and making false statements in support of bank loan applications. **Love** was released on a personal recognizance bond, but according to today's indictment, failed to appear at his trial on Oct. 28, 2002. **Love** was arrested by local authorities in Sedona, Ariz., on May 10, 2003.

According to the charges contained in the original 12-count federal indictment:

* In November and December 1996, **Love** allegedly made false statements to Sac River Valley Bank in Stockton, and its successor, Liberty Bank in Springfield, in support of an application for a \$340,000 Small Business Administration guaranteed loan for Ozark Marine Design. The indictment alleges that **Love** provided the banks with false balance sheets for Ozark Marine Design, Inc., Gary A. Love, P.C., and a false personal financial statement, all of which failed to reflect substantial debts, and an altered and false 1994 federal income tax return that showed **Love's** adjusted gross income for that year to be \$100,000 greater than he had actually

reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

* In December 1996, **Love** allegedly made false statements to the same two banks, in the form of submitting fraudulent invoices and purchase orders requesting disbursements of approximately \$81,932.50 in SBA guaranteed loan proceeds, when in fact the resulting disbursements were ultimately used for other unspecified purposes.

* On various occasions between 1993 and 1998, **Love** allegedly committed mail fraud through the operation of what is sometimes known as a Ponzi scheme, in which funds are solicited from victims on the basis of false representations, and are then converted to other uses. Through the scheme, **Love** allegedly obtained approximately \$3,355,000 in funds from at least 11 individuals and two corporate pension plans, based on false solicitations that those funds would be invested in **Love's** business, New Horizon Marketing, Inc., the indictment says.

The indictment alleges that **Love** fraudulently told his investors that their funds would be used to finance accounts receivable in the trucking industry, and that there was little or no risk of loss and that substantial returns would be realized on the investments, the indictment says. Instead, the indictment alleges that **Love** applied the invested funds to make minimal periodic payments to investors in order to make the scheme appear legitimate, and then converted more than \$1 million of the monies to his own use and to keep his personal businesses afloat.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Both cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. Today's indictment was investigated by the United States Marshal Service, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, the Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Sedona, Ariz., Sheriff's Department. The original indictment was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, the Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General, the Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Office of the Missouri Attorney General.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow