



**United States Attorney's Office District of
Connecticut
Press Release**

**January 5, 2009 CUMBERLAND MAN SENTENCED TO 51 MONTHS FOR BANK FRAUD
AND TAX FRAUD**

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that MICHAEL P. TATRO, 38, of Cumberland, Rhode Island, was sentenced today by United States District Judge William E. Smith in Providence to 51 months of imprisonment, followed by five years of supervised release. On March 11, 2008, TATRO pleaded guilty to one count of making and subscribing a false tax return and one count of bank fraud.

According to documents filed and statements made in court, from May 2002 through September 2003, TATRO engaged in a scheme to defraud *Citizens Bank* through which he caused various checking accounts to be opened, created counterfeit checks, caused the counterfeit checks to be negotiated through accounts under his control, and caused the funds to be withdrawn or otherwise transferred out of the accounts before the counterfeit nature of the checks was discovered.

TATRO also filed a false 2002 federal tax return that stated he was single and his income was \$77,944, when, in fact, TATRO was married and had received income substantially in excess of that amount during that year. TATRO failed to report on his tax return proceeds of the bank fraud, as well as funds he obtained under false pretenses from his employer, *Thielsch Engineering*.

TATRO has admitted that the intended loss related to the bank fraud was \$150,134, and the tax loss to the Internal Revenue Service was \$58,000.36.

As a condition of supervised release, TATRO is required to pay to *Citizens Bank* restitution of \$59,178. He also must cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service to resolve his outstanding tax liabilities. As a special condition of his supervised release, TATRO must participate in a mental health treatment program.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anastasia E. King.

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