



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **Former Tribal Finance Director Sentenced to Prison**

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that James J. Parisi, Jr. was sentenced to twelve months and a day in prison by U.S. District Court Judge George Z. Singal for crimes that Parisi committed while he served as the Director of Finance at the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Indian Township Reservation from 2003 to 2006.

On November 20, 2008, Parisi was convicted with Robert L. Newell, the former tribal governor of Indian Township, of conspiring to defraud the United States after a jury trial that lasted nearly three weeks. Parisi was also convicted of one count of making a false statement to a U.S. agency, four counts of submitting false claims to a U.S. agency, two counts of misapplying tribal government funds and three counts of misapplying funds of a health care benefit program.

Parisi, 47 years old of Portland, Maine, was also ordered by Judge Singal to serve a three-year term of supervised release upon his release from prison, pay restitution in the amount of \$1,602,516.13 and special assessments totaling \$1,100.00.

According to U.S. Attorney Silsby, Parisi and Newell misapplied approximately \$1.7 million dollars in restricted federal funds awarded to Indian Township for its tribal programs, including funds awarded to the tribe's Indian Health Center for a substance abuse and HIV prevention program. The victims of Parisi's offenses included Indian Township Tribal Government, the Indian Township Retirement Fund, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Program and the State of Maine.

On Friday, April 24, 2009, Robert Newell was sentenced to serve sixty months in prison for his role in this criminal conduct.

This matter was investigated by specials agents from the respective Offices of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as investigators from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.