



Department of Justice

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MATTHEW COX SENTENCED TO OVER 26 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ATLANTA, NASHVILLE, AND TAMPA MORTGAGE FRAUDS

***Former Fugitive Sentenced For Using Dozens Of Stolen Identities, Including Those Of
Minor Children And The Homeless, To Commit Mortgage Fraud In 8 States***

Atlanta, GA - MATTHEW BEVAN COX, 38, formerly of Nashville, Atlanta, and Tampa, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Timothy C. Batten, Sr., on charges of mortgage fraud, identity theft, passport fraud and violation of the terms of his probation.

"Cox will now be serving the long prison sentence he deserves for his crimes," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias in Atlanta. "While the subject of a nationwide manhunt, Cox repeatedly used the stolen identities of minor children, the homeless and others to place multiple fraudulent loans on the same property without the knowledge or consent of the true owners. His crimes resulted in clouded property titles in several states with years of unresolved litigation, a trail of over 100 victims, and millions of dollars in losses that cannot be recovered."

"The Secret Service has taken an aggressive stance in the prevention and investigation of mortgage fraud and other forms of identity theft", said James Byers, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service Atlanta Field Office. "This case shows both the wide-reaching effects of identity crimes as well as the importance of cooperation among law enforcement to focus resources and respond effectively to uncover and prevent this type of financial fraud."

COX was sentenced to 26 years, 4 months in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$5,975,900 in restitution. The court also ordered a forfeiture judgment of \$6,000,000 in assets. COX pleaded guilty to these charges on April 10, 2007.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: COX rented or agreed to purchase properties from true owners, fraudulently erased prior mortgage liens and assumed the identity of the owners, and used a stolen identity or

paid straw borrowers to obtain multiple mortgage loans on the same property. COX then changed locations and committed similar mortgage fraud schemes in other states. COX and his co-conspirators used stolen identities to execute the mortgage fraud, including identities of minor children and those he received from conducting what he termed "Federal Surveys" of homeless and drug rehab patients. COX also used these stolen identities to obtain drivers licenses and state identification cards, purchase vehicles, lease mail drops and virtual offices, rent apartments, open bank accounts and apply for credit cards, birth certificates and a passport used for travel to Jamaica, Italy, Greece and other foreign destinations while a federal fugitive.

(NEWS MEDIA NOTE: Within the next week, up to four paintings made by COX will be auctioned on the eBay internet service, with all proceeds to be directly given to victims. News media are encouraged to include the auction in coverage of the case which may result in increased restitution to the mortgage fraud victims in three states.)

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service. The investigation of co-defendants in this case continues by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Gale McKenzie prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.