

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2011

**The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network,
and the State of Florida Office of Financial Regulation Assess Civil Money Penalties
Against Ocean Bank**

WASHINGTON, DC - The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), and the State of Florida Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) today announced the assessment of concurrent civil money penalties of \$10.9 million against Ocean Bank, Miami, Florida, for violations of federal and state Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) and anti-money (AML) laundering laws and regulations. Ocean Bank, without admitting or denying the allegations, consented to payment of the civil money penalties, which was satisfied by a single payment to the U.S. Government.

In taking these actions, the FDIC, FinCEN, and OFR determined that the bank failed to implement an effective BSA/AML Compliance Program with internal controls reasonably designed to detect and report money laundering and other suspicious activity in a timely manner. The bank failed to conduct adequate independent testing, particularly with respect to suspicious activity reporting requirements. In addition, the bank failed to sufficiently staff the BSA compliance function with appropriately trained staff to ensure compliance with BSA requirements.

“Effective Bank Secrecy Act/anti-money laundering programs commensurate with the risk profile of the institution is paramount in protecting our financial system and individual banks from harm,” said Sandra L. Thompson, Director, Division of Risk Management Supervision. “This penalty underscores the significance for banks to have strong internal systems and controls to detect and report suspicious activity and ensure compliance with Bank Secrecy Act requirements.”

“The Bank failed to recognize and mitigate risks and report transaction activity often associated with money laundering involving direct foreign account relationships in high-risk jurisdictions, particularly Venezuela,” noted FinCEN Director James H. Freis, Jr. “The Bank’s failure to respond to such risk with commensurate systems and controls was both systemic and longstanding. The civil money penalties and forfeiture concludes joint investigations by FinCEN, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida, and parallel examinations conducted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Florida Office of Financial Regulation.”

“The OFR will continue to monitor Ocean Bank’s efforts to enhance its BSA/AML program,” said Tom Cardwell, Commissioner of the Florida Office of Financial Regulation. “We are confident the bank is committed to be in full compliance with the letter and spirit of the Consent Order and Agreement.”

Attachments

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
[\[Order to Pay Civil Money Penalty\]](#)

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
[\[Assessment of Civil Money Penalty\]](#)

State of Florida Office of Financial Regulation
[\[Order to Pay Civil Money Penalty\]](#)

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