



# SIGTARP

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR THE TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM

ADVANCING ECONOMIC STABILITY THROUGH TRANSPARENCY, COORDINATED OVERSIGHT AND ROBUST ENFORCEMENT

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Media Inquiries:

202-927-8940

## MISSOURI WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN \$2.8 MILLION BANK FRAUD AGAINST TWO TARP BANKS

WASHINGTON, DC - The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) and Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri David M. Ketchmark today announced that the bookkeeper for a defunct Higginsville, Mo., auto body shop pleaded guilty in federal court on Thursday to misprision of a felony related to a bank fraud.

Brandi Michelle Dukes, 31, of Mayview, Mo., waived her right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple to a federal information charging her with misprision of a felony.

Brandi Dukes is the second defendant to plead guilty as a result of the fraud. Clint Edward Dukes, 35, of Mayview, Mo., Brandi's former husband, pleaded guilty in November to a federal information charging him with bank fraud.

"Brandi Dukes, fully aware of her husband's fraud which cost three banks more than \$2 million, was bookkeeper for her husband's business and helped conceal the crime," said Christy Romero, Special Inspector General for TARP (SIGTARP). "Two of the banks defrauded were TARP banks, one delinquent on its TARP dividends in that same amount. If you know of TARP fraud and help conceal it, you're going to be held accountable for your role and brought to justice by SIGTARP and our law enforcement partners."

"This fraud scheme involved two banks that received funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP," Ketchmark said. "TARP was designed to help financial institutions recover from the economic downturn, not to provide a cash cow that dishonest business owners could plunder. We will hold those accountable who steal from public funds."

By pleading guilty, Brandi Dukes admitted that she learned in 2010 that her husband had committed bank fraud by submitting false documentation to several banks in order to obtain loans. Brandi Dukes further admitted that she concealed this activity by executing a disbursement request and authorization, on July 19, 2010, in the amount of \$397,329.00, to the First Community Bank (First Community Bancshares, Inc. of Overland Park, Kan.). These false documents resulted in a loss of \$14,181.04 to First Community Bank.

Clint Dukes was the owner of Dukes Auto Repair in Higginsville from 2004 to 2011. As a result of his guilty plea, Clint Dukes admitted that he engaged in a scheme to defraud First Community Bank, U.S. Bank, and First Central Bank from March 2004 to July 2011. In order to obtain approximately \$2.8 million in loans from these banks, Dukes falsely claimed to have contracts with the state of Missouri for

car repair work and submitted fraudulent invoices to the banks. Dukes filed false financial disclosure statements with these banks to conceal the fact that he used loans from each bank to extinguish previous loans made from the other banks.

First Community Bank and U.S. Bank received funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program.

On May 19, 2009, the parent company of First Community Bank received \$14.8 million through TARP. As of Sept. 30, 2012, the \$14.8 million taxpayer investment in the bank remained outstanding, and the bank had missed 10 additional dividend and interest payments totaling more than \$2 million. On Nov. 14, 2008, the parent company of U.S. Bank (U.S. Bancorp of Minneapolis, Minn.) received nearly \$6.6 billion in TARP funds. The bank repaid the funds in full on June 17, 2009.

Under federal statutes, Brandi Dukes is subject to a sentence of up to three years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000 and an order of restitution in the amount of \$14,181.84. As a result of his November guilty plea, Clint Dukes is subject to a sentence of up to 30 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million and an order of restitution. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled for the defendants after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners and Lafayette County Prosecuting Attorney Kellie Wingate Campbell, who has been designated a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in this case. The case was investigated by SIGTARP, the FBI, and the Higginsville, Mo., Police Department.

This prosecution was brought in coordination with President Barack Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, which was established to wage an aggressive and coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. SIGTARP is a member of the task force. To learn more about the President's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, please visit [www.StopFraud.gov](http://www.StopFraud.gov).

### **About SIGTARP**

The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program investigates fraud, waste, and abuse in connection with TARP.

To report suspected illicit activity involving TARP, dial the **SIGTARP Hotline**: 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009).

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