



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

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Man Convicted in \$2.9 Billion Fraud Scheme

The former chairman of a private mortgage lending company, Taylor, Bean & Whitaker (TBW), was convicted for his role in a more than \$2.9 billion fraud scheme that contributed to the failures of Colonial Bank, one of the U.S.'s 25 largest banks and TBW, one of the country's largest privately held mortgage lending companies. Lee Bently Farkas, and six other individuals who have pleaded guilty for their roles in the fraud scheme, misappropriated more than \$1.4 billion from Colonial Bank's Mortgage Warehouse Lending Division in Orlando, Fla., and approximately \$1.5 billion from Ocala Funding, a mortgage lending facility controlled by TBW. Farkas and his co-conspirators then used the money to cover TBW's operating expenses. The fraud scheme contributed to the failures of Colonial Bank and TBW. After a 10-day trial, a federal jury found Farkas guilty of conspiracy to commit bank, wire and securities fraud. Farkas faces a maximum prison term of 30 years for the conspiracy charge and for each count of bank fraud, 20 years for each count of wire fraud related to TARP, 30 years for each count of wire fraud affecting a financial institution and 25 years for each securities fraud count.

Northern Virginia Man Sentenced to 23 Years for Metro Bomb Plot

Farooque Ahmed of Ashburn, Va., was sentenced to 23 years in prison, followed by 50 years of supervised release, after pleading guilty to charges stemming from his attempts to assist others whom he believed to be members of al-Qaeda in planning bombings at Metrorail stations in the Washington, D.C., area. Ahmed, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Pakistan, pleaded guilty to the charges of attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization and collecting information to assist in planning a terrorist attack on a transit facility. "This individual followed a twisted, radical ideology outside that of the mainstream Muslim community which led him to break the law," said James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of WFO. He also noted that at no time was the public in danger during this investigation and that the FBI was aware of Ahmed's activities from before the alleged attempt began and closely monitored his activities until his arrest.



Prosecutors join Neil MacBride, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and Brenda Heck, Special Agent in Charge of the Counterterrorism Division of the WFO at the press conference following Farooque Ahmed's sentencing.

Pirate Convicted in Washington, D.C.

In said to be the first conviction of a piracy related offense in the District of Columbia, Jama Idle Ibrahim was sentenced to 25 years in prison for a violent act of piracy in the Gulf of Aden. Ibrahim, of Somalia, was found guilty of conspiracy to commit piracy under the law of nations and conspiracy to use a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. The act against a merchant vessel, the M/V CECFuture, began in November 2008 and lasted for 71 days. Ibrahim and other Somalis were armed with AK 47s, a rocket-propelled grenade, and handguns when they attacked and seized the vessel. The ship is owned by Clipper Group, a Danish company, and contained cargo belonging to a Texas-based company. Ibrahim and others held the vessel, cargo and 13 crew members for ransom and forced the crew to anchor in waters off the Somalia coast. The vessel finally was released in January 2009, after Clipper Group delivered \$1.7 million in ransom to the pirates.



Task Force Recognized for Capture of Serial Stabber

On April 5 the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce presented its 26th Annual Valor Awards to public safety personnel and first responders. Among those recognized were detectives and officers from the Leesburg Police Department and Special Agent Gary Vienna, a Task Force Officer detailed to the WFO's Joint Terrorism Task Force from FDA. Led by the Michigan State Police, this team investigated and worked to capture Elias Abuelazam, the person alleged to have attacked more than fourteen individuals, five fatally, in Michigan and Northern Virginia. Abuelazam was arrested at the Atlanta Airport as he attempted to leave the country. He is currently awaiting trial in Michigan.

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