

U.S. attorney charges 28 people in Metro Detroit with mortgage fraud

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By Paul Egan

The Detroit News

DETROIT – The federal government has charged 28 people with a variety of fraud and money laundering charges related to mortgage fraud crimes estimated to total more than \$50 million, U.S. Attorney Stephen Murphy announced Thursday.

The charges have been filed in 15 separate cases since March as part of a crackdown on mortgage fraud, Murphy said.

According to a recent FBI report, Michigan ranks at or near the top of the states for incidence of mortgage fraud.

Among those charged with offenses that include wire fraud, mail fraud, bank fraud, money laundering and conspiracy are people from Birmingham, Grand Blanc, Troy, Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield, Sterling Heights, Canton Township, Shelby Township and Detroit.

"Honesty and integrity in the mortgage lending business are crucial to protecting homeowners, lending institutions, and borrowers," Murphy said.

The local case is not related to the arrest Thursday morning of two former Bear Stearns officials in New York and New Jersey.

In New York, the FBI announced the arrests of Matthew Tannin and Ralph Cioffi — ex-managers of Bear Stearns hedge funds — and said they will face criminal charges related to the collapse of the subprime mortgage market.

Among the individuals Murphy named Thursday as having been charged since March with federal crimes related to mortgage fraud were: Nicole Malane, 30, of Birmingham; Kurt Warren Heintz, 37, of Grand Blanc; James Jeffrey Fish, 40, of Howell; Aubry Terback, 65, of Troy; Denise Money, 52, of Ferndale; Julieta Galvez Flores, 34, of Farmington Hills; Roberto Carmen Lemos Jr., 35, of Detroit; Phillip Blevins, 56, of Bloomfield Hills; John Husar, 39, of Sterling Heights; Cynthia Crump, 53, of Bloomfield Hills; Tanya Davis, 49, of Southfield; Arnold Jankowski, 61, of Warren; Shannon Ferguson, 36, of Canton Township; Dennis Tamburo, 39, of Washington Township; Mario Lalios, 30, of Shelby Township; **Nishon Johnson**, 37, of Detroit; Jonathone J. **Johnson**, 32, of Detroit; and Wanda Henley, 54, of Detroit.

Complete identifying information was not immediately available on 10 other people Murphy named Thursday.

Murphy also discussed a federal grand jury indictment handed down Thursday against six people involved in smuggling guns into Canada from Detroit.

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