

ORIGINAL

FILED IN CHAMBERS
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT U.S.D.C. Atlanta

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA SEP 8 2010

ATLANTA DIVISION

JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk
By: *L. Wade Childs*
Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :
 :
 v. : CRIMINAL INFORMATION
 :
 : NO. 1:10-CR- 381
 MICHAEL SHAW :

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

1. From in or about May, 2002 and continuing through in or about June, 2009, in the Northern District of Georgia, the defendant, MICHAEL SHAW, did knowingly execute and attempt to execute a scheme and artifice to defraud various financial institutions, the deposits of which were then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, to obtain moneys, funds, credits, assets, securities and other property owned by and under the custody or control of such financial institutions, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises.

2. At all times relevant to this Information:

(a) The defendant was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1999 and, most recently, was employed by a law firm in its Atlanta office. The defendant was of counsel in that office.

(b) In May, 2002, the defendant began work at the Atlanta law firm and, shortly thereafter, commenced a scheme to submit and obtain payments from such law

firm through its bank, Suntrust, for fictitious vendor services. Specifically, the defendant submitted bogus check requests accompanied by fraudulent invoices to the firm for payment.

(c) During this scheme, the defendant created a fictitious vendor by the name of Tom Lee and, thereafter, created invoices for his purported services. According to these invoices, the vendor performed title examinations and other services for clients of the firm.

(d) In turn, the defendant requested that the vendor checks be delivered directly to him so that he could deliver them to Lee. After receiving the checks, the defendant fraudulently endorsed them and deposited them into his own personal checking account. The fraudulently endorsed checks were then presented to Suntrust for payment. The law firm's clients were billed for the fictitious vendor services purportedly provided by Lee.

(e) To complete the fraud, the defendant obtained the social security number for an actual person from a bankruptcy court filing, representing it to be Lee's social security number and submitted a fraudulent W-9 form to the law firm's accounting department.

(f) As part of the scheme, the defendant created other fraudulent invoices for other people, had the checks returned to him, forged the necessary endorsements

and deposited the checks in his personal checking account. These checks also were drawn on the law firm's bank account.

(g) Law firm records show that the defendant fraudulently obtained approximately \$500,000 until the fraud was discovered in 2009.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

SALLY QUILLIAN YATES
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



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