

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 12, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced the indictment and arrest of Micah Bachman, also known as Tyler Jefferies, of Lake Forest, California, for bank fraud, false statements on loan applications, false use of a social security account number, money laundering, false statements to a federal officer, and aggravated identity theft. The 18-count indictment was handed up by a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego on March 11, 2008. Mr. Bachman was arrested today, pursuant to a bench warrant issued in connection with the indictment.

According to the indictment, Mr. Bachman created the alter ego of "Tyler Jefferies" and over time built a credit profile for that identity based upon a social security number stolen from a child in Kentucky. Among other things, the indictment alleges that Mr. Bachman created a fake New Mexico driver license for Jefferies and used it to obtain valid driver's licenses for Jefferies in Utah and California. Using the Jefferies identity, Bachman obtained credit cards and loans and made enough payments, by moving money between

and among these accounts and other accounts, to manufacture a credit history and good credit rating for Jefferies. Then, as charged in the indictment, Bachman obtained a primary and secondary mortgage loan in the total amount of \$960,000 from Chase Bank and Flagstar Bank to purchase a residence in Lake Forest, California, through a mortgage broker in San Diego. All of the loans used to create the Jefferies identity and the mortgage loans are in default. Finally, according to Assistant United States Attorney Mitch Dembin, who is prosecuting the case, in connection with the investigation of another series of loans, which resulted in the filing of charges against former NFL player Benjamin Coleman, Mr. Bachman used the identity of a third person, whose identity was stolen and used in that scheme, in discussions with the United States Secret Service in an attempt to deflect the investigation away from him and his associate, Mr. Coleman. Mr. Coleman has been charged separately in Criminal Case No. 07cr3246-DMS pending in United States District Court in San Diego.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division and Detectives of the San Diego Police Department under the auspices of the San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force.

Mr. Bachman will appear before the Honorable Anthony J. Battaglia, United States Magistrate Judge for arraignment and a bail hearing on March 13, 2008.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 08cr0710-DMS

Micah Bachman aka Tyler Jefferies

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Counts 1 - 4, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344 - Bank Fraud

Maximum Penalties: 30 years' imprisonment and \$1,000,000 fine per count

Counts 5 - 6, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1014 - False Statements on Loan Applications

Maximum Penalties: 30 years' imprisonment and \$1,000,000 fine per count

Count 7, Title 42, United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(B) - False Use of Social Security Number

Maximum Penalties: 5 years' imprisonment and \$250,000 fine per count

Counts 8 - 11, 16-18; Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A(a)(1) - Aggravated Identity Theft

Maximum Penalty: At least one mandatory sentence of two years to be imposed in addition to any other sentence imposed.

Count 12, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) - Money Laundering

Maximum Penalties: 20 years' imprisonment and \$500,000 fine

Counts 13 - 15, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 - False Statements to Federal Officer

Maximum Penalties: 5 years' imprisonment and \$250,000 fine per count

AGENCIES

U. S. Secret Service

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division

San Diego Police Department

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.