



United States Attorney's Office
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Maryland CPA sentenced to 108 months of imprisonment for conspiring to commit money laundering

WASHINGTON - A Maryland certified public accountant, William D. Poynter, has been sentenced to 108 months in prison for conspiring to commit money laundering, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Mark X. McGraw, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), Washington Field Office, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, announced today.

Poynter, 59, who operated an accounting business, W.D. Poynter & Associates, in Lanham, Maryland, received his sentence earlier today before the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Judge Sullivan also ordered the defendant to serve 24 months of supervised release after the completion of his prison term. Following a six-day trial, Poynter was found guilty by a federal jury on December 12, 2007, of Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments.

According to the evidence presented at trial, from November of 2005 to December of 2006, the defendant and two employees of a mortgage company conspired to launder over \$127,000 in cash that they believed were the proceeds of drug dealing. In actuality, the money was provided to them as part of an undercover money laundering investigation conducted by special agents of ICE. The defendant and his co-conspirators accepted the cash from an ICE informant and undercover agent who posed as drug cartel members. In exchange for payments totaling \$8,000, the defendant and his co-conspirators laundered \$127,400 by depositing most of that currency into bank accounts they opened in the name of a fictitious church, and by

converting the remainder of the cash into United States Postal Service money orders.

“By agreeing to launder what he believed were the proceeds of drug trafficking, this defendant’s conduct amounted to a criminal dereliction of the responsibility and character expected from a CPA,” said U.S. Attorney Taylor. “His conduct is a prime example of why money laundering is such a serious and complex crime, and one against which we must remain vigilant.”

“Criminals often attempt to disguise the movement of illicit proceeds through legitimate means. Attempting to launder money using a fictitious church and the U.S. Postal Service shows a significant disregard for the law,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge of ICE McGraw. “In partnership with local and federal law enforcement agencies, ICE is committed to uncovering and dismantling the schemes that criminals use to move and hide their illegal profits from law enforcement.”

In announcing today’s sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and ICE Special Agent-in-Charge McGraw praised the work of the ICE special agents and the officers from the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force who were involved with the investigation. They also commended the outstanding efforts of United States Attorney’s Office Paralegal James Mazzitelli and Supervisory Paralegal Mary Downing. Finally, they thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Greg Marshall and Anthony Scarpelli, who prosecuted the case.

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