



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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TAMPA ACCOUNTANT SENTENCED FOR LOAN FRAUD

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge James S. Moody, Jr. today sentenced Jose I. Roman (age 44, of Tampa) to one year and one day in federal prison for making false statements to the Bank of Tampa in connection with a loan application for his bookkeeping business. The court also ordered restitution of \$227,000. Roman had pleaded guilty October 9, 2008.

According to court documents, Roman was an accountant in private practice working on behalf of clients who needed commercial loans. Roman submitted false statements to the Bank of Tampa on behalf of those clients to influence the Bank to issue the loans. The false statements were business or personal financial statements showing overstated assets or understated liabilities and bogus tax returns with overstated income entries. Roman applied for one loan on behalf of one of his own companies and submitted bogus tax returns as part of that application.

This case was investigated by Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terry A. Zitek.

