



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart  
Southern District of Ohio

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CONTACT: Fred Alverson  
614-469-5715

## **DAYTON MAN SENTENCED TO FIFTY-ONE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT IN BANK FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME**

DAYTON, OHIO— Zachary Burba, age 35, of Dayton was sentenced yesterday to fifty-one months imprisonment for his role in a conspiracy to defraud two area banks of mortgage loan funds using false identification.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Kurt D. Douglass, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service Cincinnati Field Division, announced the sentence delivered Thursday by United States District Judge Walter Herbert Rice.

Burba pleaded guilty to two counts of bank fraud after being indicted by a federal grand jury in November, 2007. Also involved in the scheme were Nicole Helton, age 25 and Shakira Wells, age 27, both of Dayton, who were recruited by Burba to pose as fictitious borrowers who applied for and were approved for more than \$200,000 in home equity loans at Fifth Third and Wachovia Banks using the identity of an unnamed victim. Burba used a portion of the Wachovia loan proceeds to pay off the fraudulent Fifth Third loan and spent the remaining proceeds on himself.

Burba was ordered to pay \$130,000 in restitution to the banks and must serve five years on supervised release at the conclusion of his prison term. Helton and Wells have each pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud and are scheduled for sentencing in May.

“Financial institutions are as much victims in this type of crime as are the individuals whose identity are improperly used to secure fraudulent bank loans,” Lockhart said. “Crimes against banks will be aggressively prosecuted.”

Lockhart commended the Secret Service agents who conducted the investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Tabacchi, who prosecuted the case.

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