



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAWYER, FORMER POLICEMAN SENTENCED TO JAIL

(Sherman, Texas) A lawyer from Plano has been sentenced to 10 months incarceration and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. U.S. District Judge Richard Schell sentenced **JACK C. GILLIS, Jr.**, 53, last Thursday for bank fraud violations.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, Gillis applied for and received several loans from Legacy Bank in Plano, Texas in 2000 and 2001, As part of his application, Gillis submitted fraudulent and misleading personal and corporate financial statements to Legacy Bank. Gillis told Legacy that he had a net worth in excess of \$3.4 million. In documents filed with the Court, Gillis admitted that this information was false, and that his true net worth was zero. Gillis submitted various loan applications in January, May and June 2000, stating he still had a valuable stake in Coastal Group, even though he had resigned from the company and transferred all his interests.

Gillis was indicted in June 2003 and pleaded guilty on August 28, 2003. Gillis worked as a lawyer at the Gillis Law Offices, and specialized in business and consumer bankruptcy law. Gillis also worked as an executive with several, local oil and gas companies, including Coastal Supply Corporation and Gillis Energy Corporation. From 1976 to 1980, Gillis was a Captain with the Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

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United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig praised the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, "It is often difficult to investigate and prosecute lawyers, because they are trained practitioners of the law. I commend the work of the FBI for their efforts to root out this fraud and bring Mr. Gillis to justice." "Lawyers are given special privileges and responsibilities in our system, and when they abuse those privileges to commit fraud, they will be prosecuted and punished."

The FBI investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold Spencer prosecuted the case.

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