

Department of Justice



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THREE FLORIDA MEN CHARGED IN MORTGAGE FRAUD SCHEME

Orlando, FL – United States Attorney A. Lee Bentley, III announces the return of an indictment charging Marek Harrison (53, Plant City), Brian Allard (45, Seminole), and Scot Rounds (44, Winter Garden) with bank fraud and conspiracy to commit bank fraud. If convicted, each faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison on each count. The indictment also notifies the defendants that the United States is seeking a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of the proceeds of the charged criminal conduct.

According to the indictment, Harrison and Allard created and executed a mortgage fraud scheme involving Saratoga Resort Villas, a condo conversion of a former hotel located in Kissimmee. The scheme involved kickbacks of mortgage proceeds to buyers and co-conspirators and misrepresentations regarding the source of down payment funds. None of the incentives and kickbacks were disclosed to the mortgage lenders. Harrison and Allard recruited the buyers and found individuals to front down payment money for those buyers. Rounds, a mortgage broker, brokered the loans for the transactions, recruited straw purchasers, and distributed kickbacks to buyers.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed one or more violations of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Federal Housing Finance Agency – Office of Inspector General. It will be prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Chris Poor and Assistant United States Attorney Vincent Chiu.