

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Middle District of Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Punta Gorda Woman Sentenced For Fannie Mae Fraud

Fort Myers, Florida – U.S. District Judge Sheri Polster Chappell today sentenced Hollie Darlene Dustin (60, Punta Gorda) to six months in federal prison for committing wire fraud against the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae). The court also ordered Dustin to serve a term of three years of supervised release, 100 hours of community service, and to pay restitution in the amount of \$34,001.25. As part of her sentence, the court also entered a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of \$34,001.25, the proceeds of the wire fraud. Dustin had pleaded guilty on June 19, 2018.

According to court documents, Dustin, a licensed real estate broker, owned Home Choice Real Estate (HCRE), a company that contracted with Fannie Mae to manage and perform preservation services on various Fannie Mae foreclosed properties. As part of a Master Listing Agreement with Fannie Mae, Dustin's company was prohibited from using any vendors that she controlled to perform preservation services on Fannie Mae properties. Dustin fraudulently used ProPreserve, a company that she controlled, to perform preservation services on the properties without Fannie Mae's knowledge or consent. She then submitted approximately 550 fraudulent ProPreserve invoices for HCRE, which Fannie Mae paid.

Dustin also created inflated ProPreserve invoices for work already performed by other vendors, then submitted those false invoices to Fannie Mae for payment.

Dustin used interstate wires to fraudulently submit the invoices to Fannie Mae.

This case was investigated by the Federal Housing Finance Agency – Office of Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland.