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**CATONSVILLE REAL ESTATE APPRAISER SENTENCED TO PRISON IN SCHEME  
TO OBTAIN OVER \$4 MILLION IN FRAUDULENT MORTGAGE LOANS**

*Conspired to Obtain 16 Fraudulent Loans Resulting in Losses of More Than \$2.4 Million*

**Baltimore**, Maryland - U.S. District Judge James K. Bredar sentenced real estate appraiser David C. Christian, age 63, of Catonsville, Maryland today to 15 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Judge Bredar also ordered Christian to pay restitution of \$2,440,804.

The sentence was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Special Agent in Charge Stephen E. Vogt of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Inspector General Steve A. Linick of the Federal Housing Finance Agency; and Postal Inspector in Charge Gary R. Barksdale of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service - Washington Division.

According to his guilty plea, Christian appraised a number of properties on behalf of purchasers who were seeking financing through Worthington Mortgage Group, LLC, a mortgage brokerage company controlled by Joshua Goldberg, operating out of an office on Gough Street in Baltimore. Christian admitted that from April 2004 to April 2008, at Goldberg's request, he prepared at least 16 fraudulent appraisals for \$4,001,950 in loans originated at the mortgage company. Christian falsified the appraisals by using fake photos and descriptions of the properties, misrepresenting the condition of the properties, and used inappropriate comparable properties. The total loss for the 16 loans amounted to \$2,440,804, including \$814,730, to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and \$757,293 to the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae). Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are government sponsored federally chartered corporations that either buy mortgages on the secondary market for their own accounts or arrange to pool the mortgages and sell them as mortgage backed securities to investors on the open market.

In March and June 2007, Christian used Goldberg as the mortgage broker to refinance property that he and his wife owned in Catonsville. Christian submitted false appraisals that inflated the property value and caused another appraiser to sign the documents to avoid the

obvious conflict of performing an appraisal on his own property. With Christian's knowledge, Goldberg processed the loan in Christian's wife's name, falsifying her income and employment, as well as the balance in the couple's bank account and misrepresented other information. The loans were funded by another mortgage company, and Christian and his wife eventually defaulted on the loan, resulting in a loss of nearly \$140,000.

Joshua S. Goldberg was indicted on related charges earlier this year. He is believed to be a fugitive.

The Maryland Mortgage Fraud Task Force was established to unify the agencies that regulate and investigate mortgage fraud and promote the early detection, identification, prevention and prosecution of mortgage fraud schemes. This case, as well as other cases brought by members of the Task Force, demonstrates the commitment of law enforcement agencies to protect consumers from fraud and promote the integrity of the credit markets. Information about mortgage fraud prosecutions is available [www.justice.gov/usao/md/Mortgage-Fraud/index.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/md/Mortgage-Fraud/index.html).

This law enforcement action is part of President Barack Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. President Obama established the interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force to wage an aggressive, coordinated and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. The task force includes representatives from a broad range of federal agencies, regulatory authorities, inspectors general, and state and local law enforcement who, working together, bring to bear a powerful array of criminal and civil enforcement resources. The task force is working to improve efforts across the federal executive branch, and with state and local partners, to investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, combat discrimination in the lending and financial markets, and recover proceeds for victims of financial crimes.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein commended the FBI, Federal Housing Finance Agency - Office of Inspector General, and U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory R. Bockin, who prosecuted the case.