



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER TARP BANK LOAN OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD

WASHINGTON, DC - Christy Romero, Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP), and Barry R. Grissom, United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, today announced that Brian W. Harrison, 56, of Great Bend, Kan., pleaded guilty on March 23, 2015, to one count of bank fraud. Harrison was a former vice president and loan officer at TARP recipient Farmers Bank and Trust, of Great Bend, and in his plea, he admitted the crime occurred during the time from 2004 to 2012 when he was employed by the bank.

“On Monday, Brian Harrison, former vice president and loan officer at TARP recipient Farmers Bank was convicted of bank fraud for fraudulently concealing that the risky loans he had made were delinquent,” said Christy Romero, Special Inspector General for TARP (SIGTARP). “During the financial crisis, thousands of bankers faced delinquent loans, and they told the truth. Harrison made a different choice during the crisis, a choice to commit bank fraud. This TARP bank officer engaged in an ‘extend-and-pretend’ bank fraud scheme, extending what looked on the bank’s books as new loans for new purposes to new borrowers, when Harrison knew that the loan proceeds would be used to make other delinquent loans from other borrowers look current. To further his bank fraud scheme, he filed false documents needed for the bank to issue the new loans. The TARP bank lost money because of the fraud of its own officer. SIGTARP and our law enforcement partners will bring justice and accountability to TARP bank officers committing bank fraud.”

According to court documents, Harrison’s duties included reviewing, approving, and disbursing loans within his lending authority without the approval of the bank’s loan committee. In furtherance of a scheme to defraud the bank, he made or caused to be made false statements to the bank to hide the poor performance of various loans he made. His false statements were intended to deflect questions from the bank about problems with the loans. He falsified credit and loan applications, promissory notes, and security agreements on behalf of a purported debtor without the debtor’s proper authority.

Sentencing is set for June 8, 2015. Both parties have agreed to recommend a sentence of six months in prison, followed by six months home detention, as well as an order to pay more than \$124,000 in restitution.

This case was investigated by SIGTARP and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron Smith.

This prosecution was brought in coordination with President Barack Obama’s Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, which was established to wage an aggressive and coordinated effort to

investigate and prosecute financial crimes. SIGTARP is a member of the task force and co-chairs the Rescue Fraud Working Group. To learn more about the President's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, please visit www.StopFraud.gov.

About SIGTARP

The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program investigates fraud, waste, and abuse in connection with TARP.

To report suspected illicit activity involving TARP, dial the **SIGTARP Hotline**: 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009).

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