



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## FORMER TARP BANK LOAN OFFICER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

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., a former loan officer at TARP recipient Farmers Bank and Trust, was sentenced on June 8, 2015, to six months in federal prison followed by six months home detention for bank fraud. Harrison was additionally ordered to pay \$124,000 in restitution and \$50,000 in a personal forfeiture judgment.

Harrison previously pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud on March 23, 2015. In his plea, Harrison admitted the crime occurred during the time from 2004 to 2012 when he was a loan officer for Farmers Bank and Trust in Great Bend.

Harrison's duties included reviewing, approving, and disbursing loans. 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 bank officers about problems with his loans. He falsified credit and loan applications, promissory notes, and security agreements on behalf of a purported debtor without the debtor's proper authority.

"Senior TARP bank officer Brian Harrison was sentenced to federal prison for defrauding his employer, TARP recipient Farmers Bank, by fraudulently concealing loans that he had made leading up to and during the financial crisis that later became delinquent," said Christy Romero, Special Inspector General for TARP (SIGTARP). "Harrison had the opportunity to play it straight, comply with the law, and tell the truth about losses on the loans, but instead, he resorted to fraud and outright lies. Vigorous criminal law enforcement by SIGTARP and our partners leaves the banking industry safer than we found it by enforcing change through justice for crime related to TARP. However, there must be a cultural change within institutions that emphasizes honesty, integrity, and adherence to the law, to restore public trust and confidence in the financial industry."

In June 2009, Farmers Enterprises, Inc., of Great Bend, Kan., the parent company of Farmers Bank and Trust, received \$12 million in federal taxpayer funds through the U.S. Department of the Treasury Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). In November 2012, the bank exited TARP by purchasing the Treasury Department's stake in the company at a discount, resulting in a loss of \$560,748 on the TARP investment.

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

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, visit [www.StopFraud.gov](http://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 SIGTARP at 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009) or visit [www.SIGTARP.gov/Pages/crimetips.aspx](http://www.SIGTARP.gov/Pages/crimetips.aspx).

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