



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## KANSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING A HAMP MORTGAGE MODIFICATION

WASHINGTON, DC - Christy Romero, Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP), and Barry R. Grissom, U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas, today announced that on September 26, 2014, Eduardo Garcia Sabag, a Mexican national residing in Wichita, Kan., was sentenced for one count of making false bank entries, reports, and transactions for using a Social Security number that was not his own to obtain a mortgage modification through the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), the TARP-funded housing support program. U.S. District Judge Eric F. Melgren presided over the hearing which took place in federal court in Wichita.

Sabag was arrested on June 26, 2014, and remained in federal custody until sentencing. On September 26, Sabag was sentenced to time served - approximately 92 days in federal prison - and was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals. As part of Sabag's plea agreement, entered on August 11, 2014, Sabag agreed not to challenge his removal from the United States to Mexico in any way.

"Sabag knowingly provided false information to obtain funds made available by the federal government to struggling homeowners through HAMP," said Christy Romero, Special Inspector General for TARP (SIGTARP). "Sabag defrauded the United States and TARP recipient Bank of America by taking advantage of HAMP at the expense of American taxpayers. Those who defraud taxpayers' TARP investments will be brought to justice by SIGTARP and our law enforcement partners."

According to court documents, in 2002, Sabag contracted for the purchase of a mortgage from TARP recipient Bank of America for the purchase of a residential property in Wichita by using a Social Security number that was not his own. In August 2010, Sabag applied for and received a mortgage modification on that property from Bank of America through HAMP by fraudulently using that Social Security number. Contrary to Sabag's certification that all information submitted on the HAMP application was truthful and his acknowledgment that knowingly submitting false information on the application may be a violation of federal law, Sabag, who is not a U.S. citizen and is ineligible for the assignment of a Social Security number, fraudulently used the Social Security number on the HAMP application to obtain the mortgage modification.

This case was investigated by SIGTARP, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron L. 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. To learn more about the President's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, please 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 the **SIGTARP Hotline**: 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009).

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