

Plantation attorney acquitted in federal mortgage fraud case

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{Fort Myers Real Estate Attorney, Kevin F. Jursinski, testified as the expert witness on behalf of Defendant Eve Rosen. It was his testimony, in part, that brought about the acquittal of Rosen.}

A Plantation attorney was acquitted of 13 counts of bank fraud Thursday, after a federal jury found that she did not knowingly participate in a mortgage loan scam that cost three banks \$7.9 million.

Eve Rosen, 55, was implicated in a scheme in which Broward County developer Jeffrey Phillips recruited South Florida straw buyers to create fraudulent loan applications in order to buy vacant lots in North Florida. Between 2006 and 2008, Rosen was the closing agent on all of the transactions, which featured artificially inflated prices, fake income statements and falsified down payment information. In addition to the 13 counts of bank fraud, Rosen was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

The case was part of Operation Stolen Dreams, the federal government's largest-ever mortgage fraud takedown effort. Others involved in the case, including Phillips, the straw buyers and those who recruited them to falsify their information, have pleaded guilty in the scheme.

Rosen's lawyers said their client did not know about the scam that Phillips was perpetrating and was duped just like the banks were.

"She's been a practicing attorney for 25 years, with no [problems] in the past," said Russell Koonin, of the Ferraro Law Firm. "There was not one witness on the stand who could point to say that she knew" about the scheme.

In a federal courtroom in Miami, prosecutors argued that Rosen was "deliberately ignorant," and that she played a part in preparing falsified closing documents.

A jury returned a not guilty verdict Thursday, ending the 10-month long case.

Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/04/21/v-print/2179443/plantation-attorney-acquitted.html#ixzz1Oul297m1>