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# **News Release**

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## **2 sentenced for bank fraud, identity theft**

Two defendants were sentenced last week in federal court in connection with a conspiracy to use counterfeit identification documents to obtain money from financial institutions.

On Oct. 17 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Chief Judge Michael Davis sentenced Alan Roy Scott, 39, unknown address, to 42 months in prison and three years supervised release, and Michelle Laughter, 41, unknown address, to 38 months in prison and three years supervised release. In addition to their sentences, each defendant was ordered to pay joint restitution in the amount of \$67,668.56.

Laughter and Scott were each sentenced on one count of conspiracy to use counterfeited identification documents to obtain money from the accounts of financial institutions to obtain cash and items of value and one count of aggravated identity theft. The two were indicted on March 4.

According to their respective plea agreements, from March 4, 2003, to March 4, 2008, both defendants agreed to obtain monies and funds, held by banks, in the accounts of persons other than themselves. They admitted that they would obtain the financial information of the victims, use this information to create counterfeited checks, and present these counterfeited checks to banks in order to obtain cash.

On Jan. 20, Scott admitted that he obtained the personal banking information of a victim at TCF Bank, and used this information to create a fraudulent check. Scott, knowing the information did not belong to him or that he did not have permission to use it, then used the fraudulent check at a merchant to obtain items of value.

On Jan. 11, 2008, Laughter admitted that she obtained the personal banking information of a victim at Wells Fargo Bank, and used this information to create a fraudulent check. Laughter, knowing the information did not belong to her and that she did not have permission to use it, then used the fraudulent check at a merchant to obtain items of value.

Both defendants used identities belonging to more than 100 people to commit their crimes.

This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leshia Lee-Dixon.