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## Group's former finance chief guilty of fraud

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The former finance director for the [Texas Land Title Association](#) was convicted late Wednesday of fraud in a scheme that reaped more than \$140,000.

Sentencing for Robert Sterling "Beau" Miller, 62, is set for July 28.

In U.S. District Court in Austin, Miller was found guilty of 69 counts of wire fraud and one count of bank fraud.

Miller was the finance director at the Land Title Association from February 2001 to September 2004. The Austin-based trade group, with more than 1,700 members, represents title insurance underwriters, title agents, abstract companies and vendors for the title industry.

In that job, Miller was responsible for all financial, accounting and payroll functions. Beginning in March 2002, Miller fraudulently increased his bimonthly salary by \$1,000 each pay period, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Through those salary increases, Miller unlawfully obtained \$54,333 throughout his employment, the U.S. Attorney's Office says. Miller also fraudulently gave himself unauthorized bonuses totaling \$60,269.

Miller's unlawful receipt of bonuses and salary resulted in the counts of wire fraud.

Shortly before the discovery of Miller's fraud scheme in early September 2004, Miller directed a \$44,000 check drawn on a Land Title Association account at Guaranty Bank to an accounting firm operated by Miller, One-Two-Three Accounting Inc., according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Miller's unlawful receipt of the proceeds of that check prompted the one count of bank fraud.

Before joining the Land Title Association, Miller had pleaded no contest in November 1996 to a charge of aggravated theft in the Comal County District Court in connection with the theft of money from Midway Mobile Homes in New Braunfels, the U.S. Attorney's Office says. Miller was sentenced to four years of deferred adjudication.

When the association hired Miller in February 2001, he deceived the group about his education and work history, and had indicated that he never had pleaded no contest to a felony, the U.S. Attorney's Office says.

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