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Ex-EDS unit CFO sentenced to 1 year

By CHAD BRAY

NEW YORK

The former chief financial officer of an Electronic Data Systems Corp. unit was sentenced to one year and one day in prison Tuesday in connection with a scheme to defraud the technology-services company.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan said Joseph Amato, the ex-financial chief of EDS's Global Securities Industry Group, was sentenced at a hearing before U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain.

Prosecutors also announced that John Fasciana, an attorney and certified public accountant, was sentenced to two years in prison on Monday.

Amato, of Wyckoff, N.J., and Fasciana, of Bedford Hills, N.Y., were each convicted of criminal charges in the matter in July 2005, following a mistrial in 2002.

Amato was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud and two counts of mail fraud, while Fasciana was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, eight counts of mail fraud and three counts of wire fraud.

The government said Amato and Fasciana helped the now-deceased head of the Global Securities Industry Group and others divert checks sent to EDS and launder those checks through Fasciana's attorney-trust account. The men also allegedly helped falsify the unit's books and records to meet revenue and profit targets, prosecutors said.

Ronald P. Fischetti, a lawyer for Fasciana, said his client plans to appeal the conviction.

"Our position is John is innocent," Fischetti said.

A lawyers for Amato didn't immediately return phone calls seeking comment late Tuesday.

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