

Atlanta Business Chronicle - November 30, 2006  
<http://atlanta.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2006/11/27/daily23.html>



**BUSINESS PULSE SURVEY:** [Falcons star QB shoots fans the 'Dirty Bird'](#)

## Feds crack down on local fraud

Atlanta Business Chronicle - 7:46 AM EST Thursday

Two Georgians are facing jail time for their roles in fraud schemes.

Anthony G. Christou, 56, of Atlanta was arraigned Nov. 29 on federal charges of wire fraud and money laundering relating to his alleged execution of a \$32 million Ponzi scheme. The indictment alleges he lied to investors about short term, high yield "bridge loans" he was purportedly underwriting, when in fact he was merely using later investors' capital contributions to pay off the significant principal and interest obligations he owed to earlier investors.

The indictment also charges Christou with stealing more than \$5 million in investor assets in 2005 alone to fund extensive gambling activity at casinos in Nevada, New Jersey and Mississippi.

In another case sentenced in federal court late Nov. 29, Lisa Melinda Lyle, 39, of Winder, Ga., was sentenced to two years and six months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$74,419 in restitution to the IRS after pleading guilty to six counts of making false claims against the United States by filing false tax returns and four counts of knowingly using other persons' names and social security numbers to make false claims.

"We have many fraud cases involving the theft of our citizens' names, social security numbers, tax information, and of course, their hard-earned money," said said U.S. Attorney David E. Nahmias. "It is important for everyone to be careful about who gets their money and their identifying information. Many people simply do not check out where their money and information are going, and this lack of diligence is the backbone of many fraud schemes."

[Contact the Editor](#) [Need Assistance?](#) [More Latest News →](#)

---

[Subscribe or renew online](#)

---

*All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.*