

A seventh linked to mortgage fraud ring

INDICTED: Prosecutors accused Kourosh Partow of falsifying loan documents.

By RICHARD RICHTMYER
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Federal prosecutors have linked a seventh Anchorage resident to an alleged mortgage fraud ring.

A federal grand jury handed down an indictment this week against Kourosh Partow, accusing him of falsifying loan documents while he was a manager and loan officer at the Anchorage branches of two national mortgage companies: Countrywide Home Loans and American Home Mortgage.

Prosecutors allege that Partow overstated the income and assets on the mortgage applications of six co-conspirators, who used the money to buy 14 residential properties and then sell them at higher prices.

Altogether, the alleged ring netted roughly \$750,000 in profits on the sale of those properties, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office in Anchorage Friday.

In September, federal authorities arrested the six alleged co-conspirators, charging all of the them with conspiracy and several with bank fraud, mail fraud and making false statements to financial institutions.

Those charged in September were Azem Limani, Bekim Hasipi, Robin Dorman, Dzevid Limani, Agim Delolli and Jan Marquiss. Each has pleaded not guilty to the charges, said Karen Loeffler, the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting the case.

A judge has issued Partow a summons to appear in court to answer the charges, but he had not done so by Friday, Loeffler said.

Partow's attorney, Kevin Fitzgerald, did not return a phone call Friday.

Executives of Countrywide and American Home Mortgage also did not return phone calls Friday. Neither company has been charged with wrongdoing.

Partow was one of several employees who left Countrywide in May after the company said an internal audit had turned up irregularities, without providing specifics.

In charging documents released Friday, federal prosecutors say the alleged conspiracy started in 2002 and involved loan amounts ranging from \$156,000 to \$796,000.

The loan applicants lied to the mortgage companies by providing false documentation such as income tax returns and by not disclosing that they had borrowed money from other banks for down payments on the houses, according to the charges.

Azem Limani is accused of being the ringleader and faces 28 separate counts. The charges say the others whose names were on the loan applications were acting as nominees, or stand-ins, for

Limani, who was the true beneficiary of the transactions.

Loeffler said she expects the case to go to trial in April.

Daily News reporter Richard Richtmyer can be reached at rrichtmyer@adn.com or 257-4344.

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