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Fairfield attorney convicted in \$2.5M bank fraud



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NEW HAVEN, Conn. --A Fairfield lawyer, accused of bilking at least 17 clients out of \$2.5 million, has been convicted of bank fraud.

John M. Claydon Jr., 57, pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court to one count of bank fraud. The charge stemmed from a scheme to defraud People's Bank during real estate loan transactions, prosecutors said.

Claydon, who is currently jailed on state charges, admitted he was hired as a closing attorney for the refinancing of mortgages on two properties in Greenwich and Madison owned by friends, according to federal court documents. He also was experiencing financial problems at the same time, federal authorities said.

Prosecutors said he received about \$1.2 million from the bank in October 2004 as part of the transactions and converted them to his own use rather than repay the mortgage loans. He eventually repaid the bank \$469,000 but has not repaid the balance, documents show.

He's scheduled to be sentenced in the federal case on March 12 and faces up to 30 years in prison and more than \$1.7 million in fines and restitution.

Claydon has a Jan. 4 hearing in state Superior court on charges that he stole more than \$10,000 from two clients.

Information from: Connecticut Post, <http://www.connpost.com> ■

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