



**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
*Eastern District of Virginia*

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**Ringleader in \$1.4 Million ID Theft Ring Sentenced to 136 Months**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Clyde Austin Gray Jr., 52, of Waldorf, Md., was sentenced today to 136 months in prison for being a ringleader in a nationwide identity theft ring that has resulted in a total loss of more than \$1.5 million involving at least 10 financial institutions. He was also sentenced to 5 years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$1,414,519.80 in restitution.

Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Jeffrey W. Irvine, Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office of the United States Secret Service; and Keith Fixel, Inspector in Charge of the United States Postal Inspection Service, Charlotte Division, made the announcement after sentencing by United States District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee.

“This sophisticated ring was taken down through tremendous effort by the Secret Service and Postal inspectors,” said U.S. Attorney MacBride. “This case is a strong reminder why it’s important to report any suspicious financial activity to authorities to prevent further ID theft and fraud.”

“This was a multiagency investigation that spanned across 13 states, involving hundreds of victims,” said Special Agent in Charge Irvine. “Investigating and successfully prosecuting this case required a unique level of expertise and collaboration among several agencies. I believe today’s sentencing is reflective of our collective commitment to bring financial predators to justice.”

“This investigation was an excellent example of a partnership between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies across the country, working together to bring down a nationwide fraud conspiracy,” said Postal Inspector in Charge Fixel. “I fully commend the hard work and countless hours put forth by all of the law enforcement agencies involved, which resulted in bringing this individual and the other co-defendants in this case to justice.”

Gray pled guilty on July 22, 2009, to conspiracy to commit bank fraud. In a statement of facts filed with his plea agreement, Gray admitted to leading a nationwide conspiracy to steal money from individuals and financial institutions. Gray paid other co-conspirators to pickpocket, steal and compromise the personal identification and bank account information of victims, and then used the information to make counterfeit driver’s licenses and military identification cards.

Gray distributed the fake IDs, along with counterfeit checks drawn on the victims' bank accounts and other bank account information, to other co-conspirators.

According to court records, Gray directed others in the scheme to use the IDs and stolen bank information to impersonate victims and make split deposit transactions – depositing a check drawn on the bank account of another victim and then siphoning the money out of the falsely inflated account. His co-conspirators returned a percentage of the stolen money to Gray, who in turn distributed some of the proceeds to other co-conspirators. In his statement of facts, Gray admitted that the total fraud loss, including intended loss, attributed to his actions is more than \$1.5 million.

Eleven other co-conspirators have been charged to date in this scheme, and eight others have pled guilty to date.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Timothy D. Belevetz and Special Assistant United States Attorney Karen Servidea are prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov>.

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