



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL IN
CONNECTION WITH WEST END IDENTITY THEFT RING**

(Richmond, VA) – Katharine Caulder Staton, age 26, and her mother, Susan Lively Caulder, age 62, both of Richmond, Virginia, were sentenced today for their respective roles in an identity theft scheme that resulted in more than \$200,000 in losses to retail merchants throughout the metro-Richmond area. Staton was sentenced to 57 months in prison for her role in a conspiracy to pass counterfeit checks made with stolen identities. She was also sentenced to five years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$238,951.01 in restitution for losses owed to 52 victims. Susan Lively Caulder was sentenced to 10 months: 5 months in prison and 5 months to be served as home incarceration, following her guilty plea to obstruction of justice. Mrs. Caulder previously admitted to passing information between the codefendants, some of whom were incarcerated. Mrs. Caulder was also sentenced to three years of supervised release. The sentence was announced by Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Staton was indicted for conspiracy to commit bank fraud and for aggravated identity theft and other offenses in May 2006, along with her brother, John Alexander Caulder, and a family friend, Heather Nicole Weston. Weston was sentenced on November 1, 2006, to a term of imprisonment of 65 months and John Caulder was sentenced on November 7, 2006, to 129 months.

The latest sentencings bring to a conclusion the investigation and prosecution of an identity theft scam that resulted in the creation of 268 counterfeit checks, totaling \$330,000.00 during a nine-month period. The checks were made with the stolen identities – including the names, social security numbers, driver's license numbers and account numbers – of 104 individual victims. The checks were passed throughout the central Virginia area, including: Richmond, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Fredericksburg, and Albemarle County.

Investigations of individual members of the conspiracy were initiated by detectives from the Henrico and Chesterfield County Police Departments. Through their participation with the Metro-Richmond Identity Theft Task Force, an investigation covering multiple jurisdictions resulted in the execution of three federal search warrants, a federal indictment for bank fraud conspiracy, and multiple charges of identity theft.

Staton has no prior criminal history. Her prison term includes two years for aggravated identity theft. The statute, enacted in July 2004, mandates a consecutive, two-year prison term for defendants who use the identity of another person in relation to the commission of certain federal offenses, including bank fraud.

The task force was formed in the Fall of 2004 and is housed at the offices of the United States Postal Inspection Service, located in Henrico County. Member agencies include: the Postal Inspection Service; United States Secret Service; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Treasury Inspector General, Office of Investigations; Henrico County Police Department, and Richmond Police Department. In addition, assistance on this investigation was provided by the Chesterfield County Police Department. Prosecutions for the task force are handled by the United States Attorney's Office and the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For more information on the task force, including assistance for victims of identity theft, visit: www.richmondIDtheft.com. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura Colombell Marshall and Special Assistant United States Attorney G. Michael Favale of the Attorney General's Office.

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