



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. JOSEPH BANKER PLEADS GUILTY TO \$125,000 FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former St. Joseph banker pleaded guilty in federal court today.

Douglas E. Dougherty, 45, of St. Joseph, Mo., waived his right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to a five-count information that charges him with mail fraud. **Dougherty** was the branch manager at the US Bank, 3115 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph, Mo., for about four years prior to being transferred to the bank's trust department in November 2001. He had worked at the bank for approximately 21 years.

Dougherty admitted that he devised a scheme to unlawfully obtain money from a US Bank customer's annuity without her knowledge or consent, Graves said. **Dougherty** admitted that he used that money to, among other things, pay off the \$17,137 balance of his home mortgage, pay off the \$18,000 balance on a vehicle loan on a Ford F150 pickup truck, pay \$28,495 toward the purchase of a 2002 Ford Explorer Ltd., and to pay off approximately \$10,000 in credit card debts.

Graves explained that bank customer Ann Callman purchased a \$125,000 annuity on Sept. 10, 2000. On Nov. 28, 2000, **Dougherty** admitted, he forged Callman's signature and the signature of another bank employee on a form to change the beneficiary of the Callman annuity, naming himself as the annuity's sole beneficiary. On Jan. 12, 2001, **Dougherty** again forged signatures on a form to change the mailing address on the Callman annuity to his personal residence.

Callman died in August 2001, Graves said, and on Oct. 31, 2001, **Dougherty** submitted a request to withdraw \$99,009 from the annuity.

Four counts of the federal information charge specific instances when **Dougherty** used the mails in the commission of the fraud. Count Five of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count that requires **Dougherty** to forfeit to the United States any property derived from the fraud.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Dougherty** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million. **Dougherty** is also subject to an order of restitution. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow