



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN SENTENCED FOR GLADSTONE CHECK KITING SCHEME**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced today for defrauding three local banks in Gladstone, Mo.

**Eric K. Lam**, 39, was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner to one year and one day in prison without parole. **Lam** also was ordered to pay restitution to the victim banks in the amount of \$19,224.58. The restitution is intended to be distributed to the banks in the amount of \$1,324 to UMB Bank, located at 6211 Chestnut, \$9,146.23 to Commerce Bank, located at 6334 NE Antioch Road, and \$8,754.35 to First Bank of Missouri, located at 5959 N Antioch Road.

A federal jury found **Lam** guilty of one count of conspiracy and six counts of bank fraud on June 25, 2002. He was originally indicted on Dec. 4, 2001.

During the month of October, 2000, **Lam** presented checks written on a closed account at a Texas credit union to the three Gladstone banks knowing the account was closed. **Lam** also presented the three banks with checks written on a California account that did not exist and bounced checks from one account to the next.

In each case, **Lam** deposited only a portion of the bad or forged check into the account at the bank, receiving the remainder in cash. **Lam** received more than \$20,000 in cash from the check kiting scheme.

**Lam** opened accounts at each of the banks with a \$100 deposit on Oct. 4, 2000. Then on Oct. 10, 2000, he deposited checks from the closed credit union account at each of the three banks. **Lam** was charged with six specific counts of bank fraud: On Oct. 11, 2000, he presented a \$1,310 check to UMB Bank and received \$900 in cash. On Oct. 13, 2000, **Lam** presented three checks to First Bank of Missouri totaling \$4,010 and a \$20 traveler's check and received \$2,000

in cash for the transaction. On Oct. 13, 2000, **Lam** presented a \$2,749.44 check to Commerce Bank and received \$2,569 in cash. And on Oct. 16, 2000, **Lam** presented a \$2,390 check to Commerce Bank and received \$500 in cash.

In each instance, **Lam** knew there were insufficient funds to cover the check deposited.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, the Gladstone, Mo., Police Department, and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

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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  
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