

LV fraud case nets guilty plea

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A former Las Vegas man pleaded guilty Monday to money laundering for crimes he committed while involved in a fraudulent telemarketing scheme.

Richard Long, 41, was indicted in May on multiple counts of mail fraud and money laundering.

The indictment claimed Long engaged in a scam through two Las Vegas telemarketing companies, Thadow Inc. and New Faith Foundation.

Several Las Vegas residents were indicted on similar charges in August 1995 in connection with their involvement in the two companies.

Authorities claim about 400 victims across the country sent about \$ 2 million to the defendants between April 1994 and January 1995.

According to the indictment, representatives of Thadow portrayed the company as a charitable organization. Salespeople in Las Vegas and Colorado Springs, Colo., urged victims to send the company 'donations,' according to Long's plea memorandum.

According to the document, salespeople falsely promised victims they would receive a cash award greater than the amount they had donated.

As part of Long's plea bargain, he has agreed to cooperate with authorities in their investigation of the case.

U.S. District Judge Philip Pro is scheduled to sentence the defendant Sept. 30. Assistant U.S. Attorney Colette Rausch said Long, who now lives in Louisiana, can expect to receive a prison sentence of about three or four years.

Long has admitted he laundered about \$ 345,000 and has agreed to forfeit \$ 15,000 at the time of his sentencing.

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