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## Five indicted in \$10 million real estate fraud scheme

## Texans accused of flipping properties at inflated values

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## By Janis Mara Inman News

Five alleged conspirators were indicted in mid-February in a Dallas mortgage flipping scheme involving more than \$10 million, a newly unsealed indictment indicates.

Darron Banks, Alan K. Banks, Mark A. Dean, Katrina L. Crenshaw and Galen J. Wade have been indicted in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas for wire fraud, bank fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud.

The five are accused of creating straw buyers and purchasing Texas homes at low prices and quickly selling them for much more than the were worth – a "flipping" scheme. The alleged scheme encompassed an approximately three-year period, running from 2000 to 2004, according to the indictment.

The indictment, filed Feb. 15, supersedes an indictment filed against R.C. Jordan, Richard Jordan and Meosha Strong Gebhardt on Feb. 3 The five people named in the new indictment have been added as defendants.

The Feb. 15 indictment sets forth details as to how six Dallas properties, one Duncanville property, two Desoto properties and one Cedar Hill property were allegedly flipped.

"They (the defendants) are alleged in some instances to have cycled the same property several times, inflating the value every time," said Dallas attorney Michael Samonek. Samonek represents Richard Jordan, one of the defendants.



Richard Jordan has signed a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney i Dallas and will be sentenced April 14 in district court, Samonek said. Jordan pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge, according to Samonek.

"R.C. Jordan was allegedly affiliated with a company known as Tru-Faith Mortgage," Samonek said. R.C. Jordan, said to be the ringleader of the group, allegedly shared an office with Meosha Strong Gebhardt, Samonek said. Gebhardt is also a defendant in the indictment. "Richard Jordan was in an office down the hall," Samonek said. Richard Jordan is R.C. Jordan's cousin, according to Samonek.

"My guess is that the government threw out its net, collected some fish (in the first indictment) and those fish talked about some fish they missed and the government threw out a bigger net and got some bigger players," Samonek said. "The indictments will all be tied together."



Rachel Dollar, Dollar & Graves

"The industry has been aware of the situation in Texas with these participants for quite some time and will be watching the developments," said Rachel Dollar. Dollar represents mortgage lenders nationwide in pursuing civil recovery from mortgage fraud schemes, lectures a industry events and teaches in-house seminars for mortgage lenders and investors.

Bill McMurrey of the U.S. Attorney's Office, who is spearheading the case, would not comment on the matter.

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