
News from Attorney General Robert Abrams

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ABRAMS ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEA BY CAREER WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL

Attorney General Robert Abrams announced today that a convicted criminal with a long career of white collar crime who had managed to obtain a seat on the New York Futures Exchange pleaded guilty today (Friday, 3/16) in Manhattan Supreme Court to felony charges and will be sentenced to prison.

George Wilson Glass, 50, of (No Number) Big Fresh Pond Road, Southampton, Long Island, pleaded guilty to falsifying business records and grand larceny, in connection with his having illegally sold hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of securities and filed false documents that enabled him to obtain Commodities Future Trading Commission (CFTC) registration as a floor broker and the seat on the Futures Exchange.

Attorney General Abrams said that, in addition to the charges Glass faced today as the result of the investigation his office had conducted with the active cooperation of the CFTC, Glass had also pleaded guilty to grand larceny in Suffolk County. In the Suffolk County case, Glass was indicted by a grand jury on charges of having stolen money he took from Southampton residents ostensibly for the purchase of United States treasury bills.

According to Mr. Abrams, Glass sold commodity pool investments for the New York firm of Hardwick and Wells, which is also the subject of an investigation. The investors Glass is accused of defrauding lost virtually their entire investments.

Following his departure from Hardwick and Wells, Glass operated without a license as a securities dealer in Manhattan and Suffolk County, taking some \$80,000 from the public, virtually none of which was invested for his clients, Mr. Abrams said.

In April, 1981, using the name of his son Thomas L. Glass as his own, George Glass obtained his seat on the New York Futures Exchange and

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opened a commodity brokerage account with Goldberg Bros. He also used the name Thomas on his floor-broker registration with the CFTC. An earlier application in his own name had been rejected by the Commission because of his criminal record. (Mr. Abrams noted the younger Mr. Glass appears to have had no knowledge of his father's use of his name, nor was he implicated in any illegal activity.)

In December, 1983, after his investigation had led Mr. Abrams to enlist the cooperation of the NYFE and the CFTC regarding Glass, the Exchange suspended him. In addition, Sandra Oliva, a member of the Exchange who had leased her seat to Glass, resigned in the face of expulsion proceedings, Mr. Abrams said.

The Attorney General said a check of Glass's criminal record indicated a 1974 forgery conviction, a 1976 petit larceny conviction, a six-month prison term last year following a federal conviction involving false statements in registration papers, and censure by the National Association of Securities Dealers in 1980, an action which bars him from any business relationship with any member firm.

Mr. Abrams said he would recommend to Justice Ernst Rosenberger that Glass be sentenced to one-to-four years to run concurrently with the sentence to be imposed by Suffolk County court where Glass pleaded guilty to grand larceny. He will also ask for an order permanently barring Glass from the securities business in New York State.

The matter was handled for the Attorney General by Assistant Attorney General Howard W. Newman under the supervision of ~~Orastes J. J.~~ ~~Mr. J. J.~~ Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Bureau of Securities and Investor Protection.