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Second Co-Defendant Sentenced in Funeral Home Fraud Case



ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., 59, of Berlin, NY, was sentenced to 2 to 6 years in State Prison before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning. CATALANO was also sentenced to repay \$103,866.00 in restitution.

On July 14, 2016, CATALANO JR. pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, and (1) Count of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony.

In 2013, an independent forensic account audit for the Parker Brothers Memorial Funeral Home in Watervliet, NY, uncovered fraudulent entries in the business record books during a period of time between 2010 and 2013.

An investigation led by the New York State Police uncovered that during those dates, SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., with the assistance of co-defendant MARK S. FIET, did steal large sums of money from the proceeds of the funeral home. The thefts were further covered up with false entries in the business records of the establishment. CATALANO JR. did steal over \$150,000 from the funeral home and failed to report that money as income, resulting in multiple tax law violations.

At the time of the theft, CATALANO JR. was the director and manager of the rural “hill-town” funeral homes within the business, while FIET was working as the funeral home director and office manager in Watervliet.

On August 16, 2016, co-defendant FIET, 64, of Clifton Park, was sentenced to 6 months in jail, to be followed by a 5 year term of Felony Probation, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick. FIET was also sentenced to repay over \$50,000 in restitution.

Assistant District Attorney Shadi Masri of the Financial Crimes Unit prosecuted this case.

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