

NEWS	SPORTS	BUSINESS	TODAY	RAVE	OPINION	CLASSIFIED

[Home Delivery](#)[Site Index](#)[Archives](#)[Advertise](#)[Contact Us](#)[Help](#) NEWS [Top stories](#) [Region/State](#) [Nation/World](#) [John Bogert](#) SPORTS BUSINESS FEATURES OPINION MARKETPLACE [ABOUT US](#)

Thursday, September 11, 2003

Figure in fraud receives probation

COURTS: Fiedler is the last major defendant in the 12-year-old South Bay real estate case to be sentenced.

By Matt Krasnowski
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

South Bay real estate agent W. Darrow Fiedler was sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to pay \$105,000 in restitution Monday on charges stemming from 12-year-old crimes uncovered in a lengthy investigation of the area's property selling industry.

Fiedler, 49, was the last significant figure to be sentenced in the federal and state probe stemming from questionable real estate transactions dating from the late 1980s and early 1990s. In all, 19 people were charged during the investigation that first focused on Fiedler's former employer, RE/MAX Beach Cities Realty in Manhattan Beach.

Defendant offers apology

The Redondo Beach resident was charged and pleaded guilty in 1998 to three counts of causing false statements to be made on mortgage loan documents. In court, Fiedler said he apologized "for ever being involved in this."

U.S. District Judge George King spared Fiedler detention, partly because the defendant was credited with providing "substantial assistance" to prosecutors in the case.

Fiedler already paid the restitution, earmarked for Citibank Corp., which lost money on the mortgages, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Julie Werner-Simon.

The next drama for Fiedler will be whether the state Department of Real Estate revokes his license. King noted during the sentencing hearing that Fiedler's felonies do not include an "intent to defraud," so the

- [Ground Zero Turns to Kids on Anniversary](#)
- [World Pauses to Remember Sept. 11 Attacks](#)
- [Swedish Foreign Minister Dies After Attack](#)
- [Bin Laden's Whereabouts Sought in New Tape](#)
- [Bush Marking 'Sad' Sept. 11 Anniversary](#)
- [Justice Dept. Defies Judge on Moussaoui](#)
- [Israeli Official Favors Arafat Expulsion](#)
- [Bomber Kills 3 Near U.S. Compound in Iraq](#)
- [Federal Panel to Hear Texas District Suit](#)
- [La Russa Wins 2,000th As Cardinals Cruise](#)

- [Hourly News Summary \(audio\)](#)

- [John Bogert](#)
- [Meredith Grenier](#)
- [Tony Ciniglio](#)
- [Bob Holtzman](#)
- [Jim Thomas](#)
- [Mike Waldner](#)
- [Woody Woodburn](#)

judge agreed to recommend to state authorities that “Mr. Fielder be allowed to continue to practice in the real estate field.” The judge’s suggestion is not binding.

Career can be pursued

Fiedler’s attorney Edward Robinson said because Fielder has already paid full restitution, the amount of time that has passed since the crimes were committed and King’s recommendation, Fiedler should be able to keep selling real estate. The RE/MAX-related cases have moved slowly through the courts partly because of the extensive legal battle over sentencing the lead defendant in the case, Jodi Voy Pillsbury. She pleaded guilty but did not cooperate with the government. Last year she received a nine-month home detention sentence and a \$370,000 restitution payment.

The longest prison sentence for any of the 19 defendants in the case was Lloyd Anastasi, president of Redondo Beach-based Anastasi Realtors, who also pleaded guilty to loan fraud and received a 15-month prison term from U.S. District Judge Gary Feess.

Also charged in the probe was Robert K. Todd, the former president of RE/MAX Beach Cities. He pleaded guilty and King sentenced him to six months of home detention and ordered him to pay roughly \$370,000 in restitution.

The charges stem from a string of loans made between 1988 and 1992 that sparked a probe by the state Department of Real Estate and the FBI. The suspect loans were made when the real estate market in Southern California was booming and some contend lending policies were lax.

Property values were rising so quickly, banks and savings and loans lent liberally because they assumed that if the buyer couldn’t make the mortgage payments, they could resell the property and get their money back.

Publish Date: *September 9, 2003*

[Site Index](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)
[Make DailyBreeze.com your homepage](#)

© Copyright 2003 Copley Press, Inc.