

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT

WEEKLY AGENCY REPORT

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

WEEK ENDING JULY 3, 2014

Successes for Week Ending July 3, 2014

1. Licensing and Registration

- Division of Securities
 - Applications Received: 1,165
 - Applications Approved: 1,116
 - Applications Denied/Withdrawn: 12

- Division of Consumer Finance
 - Applications Received: 277
 - Applications Approved: 245
 - Applications Denied/Withdrawn: 16

- Division of Financial Institutions
 - Applications Received: 7
 - Applications Approved: 3
 - Applications Denied/Withdrawn: 0

2. Regulatory Actions

On June 27, 2014, First Florida Integrity Bank (formerly National Bank of the Gulf Coast) converted to a state charter. First Florida Integrity Bank is located in Naples, Florida, with an assets size of \$865 Million.

[Press Release: First National Bank of the Gulf Coast Changes Name, Becomes State-Chartered Institution](#)

3. Enforcement Actions

On June 26, 2014, U.S. District Judge Richard W. Goldberg sentenced Arthur John Schlecht to 120 months in federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release for his role in organizing an elaborate Ponzi scheme, which bilked investors out of \$48 million dollars. A day earlier, on June 25, 2014, Judge Goldberg sentenced each of the co-defendants Carlos Rodriguez and Ricardo Padron to 45 months in prison for their roles in the same scheme. The sentences follow a joint OFR and federal investigation, which found that the defendants, operating through their companies, Global Bullion Trading Group, WJS Funding, Inc. (d/b/a Capital Asset Management) and Certified, Inc., solicited investors to purchase precious metals using leveraged/margin accounts in what turned out to be nothing more than an elaborate Ponzi scheme. Investors were led to believe they were purchasing physical metals, and that their metals would be held in

personalized accounts. Investors were also told they had the ability to take possession of the precious metals at any time, subject to handling fees, postage and insurance. Contrary to representations, the investigation found that the subjects did not purchase physical metals or maintain individual accounts on behalf of investors. Instead, the defendants appropriated \$5.7 million for their personal use and for the benefit of family members. On February 27, 2014, following a four week federal trial, defendant Schlecht was found guilty of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud for his role as orchestrator of the scheme. He and the other defendants were indicted on August 9, 2012. Rodriguez and Padron pled guilty to the charges in the indictment and averted trial. Two other defendants indicted in the case, Robert Roca and Frederick Gomer, pled guilty to the charges in the indictment as well. Roca was sentenced to 36 months in prison on September 30, 2013, and Gomer passed away in January 2014 prior to sentencing.

New Issues

1. Outreach and Communications Activities

On July 3, 2014, an on camera interview between OFR Commissioner Drew J. Breakspear and Steven Scully of C-SPAN aired.