

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
TONY RACKAUCKAS, *District Attorney*

Susan Kang Schroeder, *Chief of Staff*
Office: 714-347-8408
Cell: 714-292-2718

Michelle Van Der Linden, *Spokesperson*
Office: 714-347-8405
Cell: 714-323-4486



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Case # 17CF0852

Date May 18, 2017

FAKE ATTORNEY ARRAIGNED FOR DEFRAUDING SEVERAL CLIENTS THROUGH DEBT CONSOLIDATION AND MORTGAGE MODIFICATION SCHEMES

SANTA ANA, Calif. – A man was arraigned yesterday for impersonating an attorney and defrauding several clients through debt consolidation and mortgage modification schemes.

Defendant	Charges	Maximum Sentence	Court Date
James Frank Barker, 57, Newport Beach	Charged on April 5, 2017, with the following felony counts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (8) Money laundering• (3) Grand theft Sentencing Enhancements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aggravated white collar crime over \$100,000• Property damage/loss over \$65,000• Property loss over \$200,000	11 years and eight months in state prison	Pre-trial May 25, 2017, 8:30 a.m. Department C-55, Central Justice Center, Santa Ana

Circumstances of the Case:

- Between December 2013 and July 2015, Barker is accused of posing as an attorney under several different aliases and law firm names.
- Barker is accused of soliciting clients by promising to consolidate outstanding debts and/or reduce mortgage payments through loan modifications.
- Between November 2013 and July 2015, the defendant is accused of collecting \$20,960 from his clients, John Doe 1 and Jane Doe 1, \$3,000 from John Doe 2 and Jane Doe 2, and \$21,640 from John Doe 3 and Jane Doe 3.
- The defendant is further accused of never notifying his clients' debtors of his representation, never attempting to negotiate any debts on behalf of his clients, and never submitting any mortgage assistance applications on behalf of his clients.
- Barker is accused of refusing to refund his clients and laundering the money at a JPMorgan Chase bank.
- On Dec. 7, 2015, the Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA) received a tip from an attorney in Orange County who represented two of Barker's victims.
- OCDA investigated this case and discovered that Barker has never been a licensed member of the State Bar of California.
- Newport Beach Police Department arrested Barker on May 15, 2017.