

The Salient Facts of The *DeLano* Case showing a bankruptcy fraud scheme supported or tolerated by judges

DeLano is a federal bankruptcy fraud case. As part of 12 such cases, it reveals fraud conducted through coordinated wrongdoing that is so egregious as to betray overconfidence born of a long standing practice: Fraud has been organized into a bankruptcy fraud scheme. This case was commenced by a bankruptcy petition filed with Schedules A-J and a Statement of Financial Affairs on January 27, 2004, by the DeLano couple. (04-20280, WBNY) Mr. DeLano, however, is a most unlikely candidate for bankruptcy, for at the time of filing he was already a 39-year veteran of the banking and financing industry and was and continued to be employed by M&T Bank precisely as a bankruptcy officer. He and his wife, a Xerox technician, declared:

1. that they had in cash and on account only \$535 (D:31), although they had declared that their monthly excess income was \$1,940 (D:45); and in the FA Statement (D:47) and their 1040 IRS forms (D:186) that they had earned \$291,470 in just the three years prior to their filing;
2. that their only real property was their home (D:30), bought in 1975 (D:342) and appraised in November 2003 at \$98,500, as to which their mortgage was still \$77,084 and their equity only \$21,416 (D:30)...after making mortgage payments for 30 years! and receiving during that period at least \$382,187 (2)...through a string of eight mortgages! (D:341) *Mind-boggling!*
3. that they owed \$98,092 –spread thinly over 18 credit cards (D:38)- while they valued their household goods at only \$2,810 (D:31), less than 1% of their earnings in the previous three years! Even couples in urban ghettos end up with goods in their homes of greater value after having accumulated them over their worklives of more than 30 years.
4. Theirs is one of the trustee's 3,907 *open* cases and their lawyer's 525 before the same judge.

These facts show that this was a scheme-insider offloading 78% of his and his wife's debts (D:58) in preparation for traveling light into a golden retirement. They felt confident that they could make such incongruous, implausible, and suspicious declarations in the schedules and that neither the schemers would discharge their duty nor the creditors exercise their right to require that bankrupts prove their petition's good faith by providing supporting documents. Moreover, they had spread their debts thin enough among their 20 institutional creditors (D:38) to ensure that the latter would find a write-off more cost-effective than litigation to challenge their petition. So they assumed that the sole individual creditor, who in addition lives hundreds of miles from the court, would not be able to afford to challenge their good faith either. But he did! The Creditor analyzed their petition and documents and estimated that the DeLano Debtors had concealed assets worth at least \$673,657!

The Creditor requested that the DeLanos produce documents as obviously pertinent to prove the good faith of a debtors' bankruptcy petition as their bank account statements. Yet the trustee, whose role is to protect the creditors' interests, tried to prevent the Creditor from even meeting with the DeLanos. After the latter denied *every single document* requested by the Creditor, he moved for orders of production. Contrary to their duty to determine whether the Debtors had engaged in bankruptcy fraud by concealing assets, the bankruptcy judge, the district judge, and the *Court of Appeals* also denied him *every single document* requested. Then they eliminated him by disallowing his claim in a *sham evidentiary hearing*. Revealing how incriminating these documents are, to oppose their production the DeLanos, with the trustee's recommendation and the bankruptcy judge's approval, have been allowed to pay their lawyers \$27,953 in legal fees... although they had declared only \$535 in cash and on account! To date \$673,657 is still unaccounted for. Where did it go and for whose benefit? How many of the trustee's 3,907 *open* cases have unaccounted for assets? How big is the scheme and how far up does it *reach*?

**The DeLanos' income of \$291,470,
+ mortgage receipts of \$382,187 = \$673,657
and credit card borrowing of \$98,092**

unaccounted for due to the judges' and the trustees' refusal to require the DeLanos to produce documents supporting their declaration in Schedule B (D:31) of their bankruptcy petition that at the time of its filing on January 27, 2004, they had in hand and on account only \$535!¹

Exhibit page #	Mortgages referred to in the incomplete documents produced by the DeLanos to Chapter 13 Trustee George Reiber ^a (cf.Add:966§B)	Mortgages or loans	
		year	amount
D ^b :342	1) from Columbia Banking, S&L Association	16jul75	\$26,000
D:343	2) another from Columbia Banking, S&L Asso.	30nov77	7,467
D:346	3) still another from Columbia Banking, S&L Asso.	29mar88	59,000
D:176/9	4) owed to Manufacturers & Traders Trust=M&T Bank	March 88	59,000
D:176/10	5) took an overdraft from ONONDAGA Bank	March 88	59,000
D:348	6) another mortgage from Central Trust Company	13sep90	29,800
D:349	7) even another one from M&T Bank	13dec93	46,920
D:350-54	8) yet another from Lyndon Guaranty Bank of NY	23dec99	95,000
	9) any other not yet disclosed?	Subtotal	\$382,187
The DeLanos' earnings in just the three years preceding their voluntary bankruptcy petition of January 27, 2004 (D:23)			
2001	1040 IRS form (D:186)	\$91,229	\$91,229
2002	1040 IRS form (D:187) Statement of Financial Affairs (D:47)	\$91,859	91,655
2003	1040 IRS form (D:188) Statement of Financial Affairs (D:47)	+97,648	+108,586
to this must be added the receipts contained in the \$98,092 owed on 18 credit cards, as declared in Schedule F (D:38) ^c		\$280,736 ^d	\$291,470 ^d
		TOTAL	\$673,657

^a The DeLanos claimed in their bankruptcy petition that their only real property is their home, valued on November 23, 2003, at \$98,500, as to which their mortgage is still \$77,084 and their equity is only \$21,416 (D:30/Sch.A)...after making mortgage payments for 30 years! and having received during that same period at least \$382,187 through the known elements of a string of mortgages! *Mind-boggling!*

^b D=Designated items in the record of *Cordero v. DeLano*, 05-6190L, WDNY, of April 18, 2005.

^c The DeLanos declared that their credit card debt on 18 cards totals \$98,092 (D:38/Sch.F), while they set the value of their household goods at only \$2,810! (D:31/Sch.B) *Implausible!* Couples in the Third World end up with household possessions of greater value after having accumulated them in their homes over their worklives of more than 30 years.

^d Why do these numbers not match?