

OFFICE OF THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

**JAN SCULLY**  
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CHIEF DEPUTY

**CYNTHIA G. BESEMER**

**CASE OF INTEREST**

June 11, 2007

Case: People v. Michael Lenard Smith

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Identity Theft  
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Jan Scully announced that on Friday, June 8, 2007, Michael Lenard Smith was sentenced to 16 years in State Prison by the Honorable Michael P. Kenny, Judge of the Superior Court. Mr. Smith had pled and was convicted of felony evading a peace officer and numerous charges involving identity theft, possession of stolen property, and possession of counterfeit checks and driver licenses.

Mr. Smith committed the crimes between December 1, 2004, and the evening of April 6, 2005. Mr. Smith was contacted by Sheriff's deputies on the evening of April 6, 2005. When asked for identification Mr. Smith backed his vehicle down a driveway, almost hitting a Sheriff's deputy. He then fled from officers and was pursued for ninety minutes by sheriff and police emergency vehicles and by police helicopters. The pursuit ended when the defendant, driving on the rims of his SUV, drove the wrong way onto State Route 51 and was stopped.

Officers located numerous stolen checks and counterfeit driver licenses in the names of thirteen different victims, all bearing Mr. Smith's photo. At the time he was apprehended Mr. Smith was wanted by both the Sacramento Police Department and the Sheriff Department's Identity Theft Task Force for committing identity theft crimes at Target, Kragen Auto, Filco, and Circuit City stores. It was not until he was apprehended that law

enforcement learned the identity of the suspect and that he had obtained the identifying information of numerous victims from checks stolen in residential burglaries and from business records stolen from businesses.

After his apprehension, Mr. Smith's case was investigated by Sacramento County Sheriff's Detective Al Kirby of the Identity Theft Task Force. Detective Kirby located and interviewed numerous identity theft victims and obtained surveillance tapes and business records from numerous victim businesses. According to Deputy District Attorney Mary Simmons, "Without the alert job by Sheriff's patrol officers and the diligent follow-up investigation by Detective Al Kirby, Mr. Smith would still be out victimizing Sacramento residents."