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Mistress of "Doc" Gallagher Sentenced to Life in Prison

(Fort Worth, TX) – Debra Mae Carter, mistress of Christian Ponzi schemer William Neil "Doc" Gallagher, was sentenced by the court to life in prison.

The sentence was for the role she played in Gallagher's Ponzi scheme that bilked senior citizens out of millions of dollars.

Gallagher, who called himself the "Money Doctor," was sentenced November 1, 2021, to three life sentences in prison, plus another 30 years behind bars, on charges including forgery, securing the execution of a document by deception, theft of property, and exploitation of the elderly.

Gallagher's main role in the scheme was to bring in the money; Carter's role was to make sure it was not recovered by the victims. The two ultimately planned to retire to a huge ranch together.

At the end of a two-week trial that featured an ex-spouse, investors – and even Gallagher himself – a Tarrant County jury on July 8 found Carter, 65, guilty of money laundering for the role she played in Gallagher's illegal scheme. Judge Elizabeth Beach sentenced Carter on July 30.

Carter represented herself in the trial that was marked by delays when witnesses weren't available and when Carter briefly checked herself into the hospital.

Tarrant County Assistant District Attorneys Lori Varnell, Nathan Martin, and Anastasia Frane told the jury that Carter and Gallagher gained more than \$31 million over 10 years, leaving more than 170 mostly retired victims in their wake.

"These were hard-earned retirement (dollars) which ... got put into her account over and over again," Varnell said. "She is a blight on society."

"She's just a liar. That's what she does."

Carter laundered much of the money through rental homes, land, fake charities, and more. About \$200,000 in gold and silver was seized after it was found in her travel trailer.

During punishment, victims told the court about the impact losing their investment money had on them.

Brenda Wilkerson, 84, invested with Gallagher money she and her now late husband inherited. If she had that money now, she could pay off the mortgage on her home. Instead, she said she will be making payments until she dies.

"Debbie Carter deserves life in prison," Wilkerson said. "She has ruined so many lives. ... It's despicable."

DA Investigators Patrick Truly and Dara Couch, along with Victim Coordinator Carrie Farley, worked on the case. Thanks to the Hurst Police Department for their work on this case and for their commitment to keeping our community safe.