



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**P. DAVID SOARES**

6 LODGE STREET

**ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207**

(518) 487-5460

(518) 487-5093 FAX

**CONTACT:** CECILIA WALSH (518) 275-4710 or

[CECILIA.WALSH@ALBANYCOUNTYNY.GOV](mailto:CECILIA.WALSH@ALBANYCOUNTYNY.GOV)

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## Sentencing in Funeral Home Fraud Case



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that MARK S. FIET, 65, of Clifton Park, was sentenced to serve (6) months in the Albany County Correctional Facility, to be followed by a (5) year term of Felony Probation, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this morning. FIET was also sentenced to repay over \$50,000 in restitution.

On December 1, 2015, FIET pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

In 2013, an independent forensic account audit for the Parker Brothers Memorial Funeral Home in Watervliet, NY, uncovered fraudulent entries in the business record books during a period of time between 2010 and 2013.

An investigation led by the New York State Police uncovered that during those dates, FIET with the assistance of co-defendant SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., did steal large sums of money from the proceeds of the funeral home. The thefts were further covered up with false entries in the business records of the establishment. CATALANO JR. did steal over \$150,000 from the funeral home and failed to report that money as income, resulting in multiple tax law violations.

At the time of the theft, CATALANO JR. was the director and manager of the rural “hill-town” funeral homes within the business, while FIET was working as the funeral home director and office manager in Watervliet.

On July 14, 2016, co-defendant CATALANO JR., 58, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, and (1) Count of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court. CATALANO JR. faces 2 to 4 years in State Prison when sentenced on September 22, 2016, and will also be ordered to repay a sum of restitution.

Assistant District Attorney Shadi Masri of the Financial Crimes Unit is prosecuting this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710 or [cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov).

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*All parties are presumed innocent until and unless convicted*