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**For Immediate Release – July 9, 2004**

**Contact:** Pam Russell  
Public Information  
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**RE:** Randy Mitchell Romero Sentenced to 40 Years Prison for  
Securities Fraud

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Randy Mitchell Romero, DOB: 6-15-54, of Lakewood, appeared today in Jefferson County District Court and was sentenced to 40 years in prison for securities fraud. Following an investigation by the Lakewood Police Department and the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, Romero and his wife, Lynda, were both indicted in January, 2003. Randy Romero pled guilty on April 8, 2003 to two counts of securities fraud.

Through his business, American Home Mortgage (AHA), located at 3345 S. Wadsworth, Lakewood, Romero solicited funds of individuals (and their families and friends), telling them the funds would be used as "bridge loans" or as down payments for AHM's customers who themselves lacked funds. He would promise a very high rate of return (10-20%) for the use of these monies for a short period of time. Most were given a promissory note or post-dated check as means to recover their investment. American Home Mortgage was formed in 1997 and in the early years of this enterprise, some did receive a return on their "investment", but 52 victims lost \$5 million. Several victims addressed District Court Judge Brian Boatright during the sentencing, describing having lost their retirement accounts, children's college funds, equity in their homes, friendships and bankruptcy. Most had developed

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trusting relationships with Romero, some were neighbors, and many had encouraged in their family members and friends to similarly “invest” their money with him.

Lynda Romero, who has also been accused in this case, has pled not guilty and is scheduled for a jury trial on September 7, 2004.

Romero’s sentence was aggravated because he was technically on probation for similar charges in a 1993 case. In that case he pled guilty to three counts of securities fraud and had served a short prison sentence, followed by a period of probation which was to last until he paid the restitution as ordered. He was sentenced to 36 years in the current case and 4 years for the 1993 conviction for a total of 40 years in prison. He also has a mandatory parole period of five years.

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