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Galveston Oilman Sentenced to 18 Years for Defrauding Investors

Jul 12
2019

Daniel Christopher Walsh, a Galveston oilman who made money by keeping investor funds in his pockets – not in the ground, drilling wells – was sentenced to 18 years in state prison on July 12 after reaching a plea agreement in his fraud trial in Wichita County.

Walsh pleaded guilty to money laundering on July 10 in the 30th District Court, where he had been indicted on first-degree felony charges of theft, money laundering, and securing execution of a document by deception.

Walsh was indicted on the theft charge for stealing \$492,090 from 12 investors who purchased investments in oil wells that were supposed to be drilled in the High Island section of eastern Galveston County.



The victims included a retired real estate broker in Houston and an instructor and pilot at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls.

Walsh, the CEO of Houston-based **Western Capital Inc.**, told investors their money would pay for the drilling and testing of High Island wells named Sun Fee #1 and #2. The wells were supposed to be turnkey projects, a financing arrangement in which investors pay a set amount and the promoter assumes all financial responsibility for drilling the well.