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Shumake sentenced to 18 years in prison

James Shumake, age 64, of Cedar Hill, Texas, was found guilty of forgery by an Ellis County Jury on June 28, 2011, for passing a forged check at the Vintage Bank in Glenn Heights, Texas on April 21, 2009. After deliberation on punishment, the jury assessed the punishment at eighteen (18) years imprisonment, and he was, thereafter sentenced to confinement in the Texas prison system by District Judge Bob Carroll of the 40th District Court of Ellis County, Texas.

The punishment range for forgery is 180 days in state jail up to two (2) years in state jail. Because two sequential felony convictions with prison sentences were proven during the punishment phase of the trial, the range of punishment was enhanced from two (2) to twenty (20) years in the Texas prison.

Kelly Lightle Tyler, a former bank teller with Vintage Bank in Glenn Heights, testified that Shumake came into the bank and presented to Tyler the forged check with his name and address printed on the check, along with his Texas Identification Card, and wanted to cash the check. Tyler was alerted to some discrepancies on the check and contacted the owner of the business to verify the check. During the trial, the business owner testified that she did not authorize the check to James Shumake. After discovering this information, Tyler notified another Vintage Bank employee to call the police. Shumake then told Tyler that he had to go to his car and left the bank, leaving behind the forged check and his Texas ID Card.

The Ellis County and District Attorney's Office thanks the Glenn Heights Police Department and employees at the Vintage Bank for their assistance in this case. The prosecutors on the case, Assistant County and District Attorneys Amy Nguyen and Don Maxfield, issued the following statement, "We want to thank the jury in this case for their hard work and attention in arriving at a fair verdict of guilty and for an appropriate punishment for this defendant."

