



Palm Beach Post Photo by Brandon Kruse

Facing sentencing, Lin Gosman enters the federal courthouse Thursday. She later praised Judge Kenneth Ryskamp's ruling.

the deterioration of her physical and psychological health. Before she lied about her personal assets, Lin Gosman was a "pillar of society," he said.

The judge admonished the government's vigorous prosecution of the case.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office is hailing this like it's the crime of the century," Ryskamp said near the start of the sentencing hearing. "You make this sound like a fraud case. This isn't Bernie Madoff."

Ryskamp called the case "bizarre in many respects," adding that he has "never seen such an aggressive prosecution" of this type of case in his 23 years on the bench. Ryskamp also said he's never seen such "a lack of objectivity" on the part of the government in pursuit of a case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Carolyn Bell, however, said Lin Gosman's admitted actions — hiding at least \$400,000 in shared assets in storage buildings and receiving a \$350,000 second mortgage on a Jupiter house she owns without disclosing to the mortgage holder

the \$66 million bankruptcy judgment against her husband — were "secretive, deliberate and dishonest. It was criminal."

"This is at the top of the heap," Bell said. "This is the type of bankruptcy fraud where everyone goes 'Oh, my goodness.' This conduct, if we don't address it, the bankruptcy system doesn't work."

Bell recounted Lin Gosman's post-indictment trips to Hong Kong, Dubai, Morocco, Paris and other spots — while allegedly conducting research for a children's book — as evidence she was spending funds that should have been reserved for her husband's creditors.

In addition, Gosman admitted filing a false tax return in 2004 and failing to file tax returns since 2005.

Bell said Gosman tried to hide \$3.5 million in assets from the IRS. Gosman has already paid \$350,000 in back taxes, Ryskamp said.

The judge denied restitution to Joseph Luzinski as trustee for the bankruptcy creditors. Luzinski told the judge his firm has billed \$13

had no support. In order to protect myself, I panicked" and did the wrong thing. "I hope, your honor, you can give me a chance to rebuild the life I have left."

Afterward, she said, "I owe a great deal of thankfulness to Judge Kenneth Ryskamp for seeing through all of this. I just can't believe he is so wise and so kind, and I truly do appreciate every bit of support."

Gosman said she wasn't expecting such a good outcome.

"I was hopeful, but in this case it has been just the contrary," she said. "Maybe now I can restructure my life again."

Abe Gosman said he was "very happy" his wife will not serve prison time.

"(I'm) delighted that the court system has finally come out right," he said. "It has been a long nine years."

Prosecutor Bell declined comment.

Donald Bierman, one of Lin Gosman's attorneys, described the ordeal as "a nine-year nightmare that ended with a prosecution that was extremely unusual, a prosecution that attempted to carry out the wishes of the trustee and bankruptcy that took a tremendous toll from Lin Gosman."

The sentencing hearing

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