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**ASIC**

Australian Securities &  
Investments Commission

## **GOLD COAST BUILDER GAOLED ON ASIC CHARGES**

Former Gold Coast building company director Paul Stanton, previously known as Paul Almerino Cavaliere, a bankrupt and former director of Cavaliere Constructions Pty Ltd, was today sentenced in the Brisbane District Court to a maximum of three years imprisonment on Corporations Law charges.

Justice Healy ordered Mr Stanton to serve a minimum of six months gaol, minus the 29 days he has already spent in custody on remand on these charges as well as being placed on a three year good behaviour bond of \$2000.

The charges resulted from a joint investigation by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) following complaints by both the liquidator of Cavaliere Constructions Pty Ltd and Mr. Stanton's trustee in bankruptcy who estimated Mr. Stanton's personal debts at over \$1 million.

Mr Stanton pleaded guilty to transferring more than \$326,000 from Cavaliere Constructions Pty Ltd and depositing the funds into a personal bank account, and the bank accounts of several companies with which he was associated.

Those funds were later transferred to a Swiss bank account.

In early 1996 Mr Stanton moved to NSW and failed to notify his trustee in bankruptcy of his new address and name change.

After extensive inquiries by ASIC and AFP investigators Mr Stanton was found in Sydney and in March 1998 a search warrant was executed on Mr Stanton's home and he was arrested.

Mr Stanton was extradited to Queensland and was remanded in custody pending the return of funds from Switzerland.

In April 1998 more than \$420,000 was returned to Australia from a numbered Swiss bank account and lodged with Mr Stanton's trustee in bankruptcy.

In sentencing Justice Healy said these were serious offences committed at a time when creditors were pressing for payment. He said the accused had engaged in calculated and dishonest conduct and shown no remorse and a ruthless disregard for the consequences of his actions.

Queensland Regional Commissioner Barrie Adams said this action by ASIC was an example of its determination to get money back for creditors where they have been defrauded.

"It is also an example of Australian regulators and law enforcement agencies working together to bring charges against directors who misuse other people's money," Mr Adams said.

"In this case it is particularly pleasing that funds secreted overseas were identified and recovered."

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