

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK: PART 31

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW
YORK

-against-

ANNA SOROKIN

Defendant.

STATEMENT OF
FACTS

Ind. No. 3129-2017

Defendant is charged with committing or attempting to commit seven crimes involving six different victims between November 2016 and August 2017 with a total loss of approximately \$275,000. First, on November 21, 2016, Defendant sought a loan of approximately \$22 million from City National Bank to open a private club. Defendant fraudulently represented herself to be a German heiress with approximately €60 million in assets and claimed that the loan would be fully secured by a letter of credit from UBS in Switzerland. In support of this claim, Defendant presented City National Bank with forged bank statements purporting to substantiate these assets. Eventually, City National Bank turned Defendant down because Defendant did not have sufficient cash flow to make loan payments.

On December 30, 2016, Defendant sought a loan of approximately \$25-\$35 million from Fortress Investment Group LLC (“Fortress”) in order to fund the same business venture. As with City National Bank, Defendant represented herself to be a German heiress and claimed that the loan would be secured by a letter of credit from UBS in Switzerland. She also provided Fortress with the same forged documents in

order to substantiate her assets. As a prerequisite to proceed with the due diligence process, Fortress required Defendant to provide \$100,000 as a good faith payment to cover Fortress's legal expenses and due diligence costs. After repeatedly assuring employees at Fortress that a wire transfer was on its way to cover this amount, Defendant contacted an employee at City National Bank on January 11, 2017 seeking a loan for the \$100,000, claiming that it would take her too long to liquidate her assets in Germany and wire the funds to the United States. Relying upon Defendant's representations as to her foreign assets, representations purportedly substantiated by the forged bank documents, City National Bank allowed Defendant to overdraw her account by \$100,000. Defendant assured employees at City National Bank that she would wire the funds within days to cover the overdraft. Defendant repeatedly claimed that she had wired the funds, even providing employees at City National Bank with fake wire confirmations, but the funds never materialized.

On February 2, 2017, under pressure from Fortress to arrange a meeting with a UBS banker in Switzerland who could verify her assets, Defendant claimed to be receiving funding for her project from her father and withdrew herself from consideration for a loan from Fortress. Approximately \$55,000 of the good faith deposit remained, which Defendant had wired into a Citibank, N.A. ("Citibank") account under her control. Defendant frittered away these funds on personal expenses in about one month's time, spending the funds on her upkeep at 11 Howard—a luxury hotel, high-end fashion purchases from Net-a-Porter and Forward by Elyse Walker, sessions with a personal trainer, Apple, and other personal expenses.

Faced with a substantial bill from 11 Howard, where she was living, beginning on April 11, 2017, Defendant deposited \$160,000 in bad checks into her Citibank account and transferred \$70,000 from the account before the checks were returned, including a \$30,000 wire transfer to 11 Howard.

On May 5, 2017, Defendant booked a chartered flight from Fly Blade, Inc. to go to and from Omaha, Nebraska so that she could attend the Berkshire Hathaway shareholders' meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, a trip that cost approximately \$35,400. After the trip, Defendant repeatedly assured employees of the company that she had sent a wire in payment for her air travel. As before, Defendant even sent them a fake wire confirmation, indicating that funds had been sent to them, but the money she supposedly had sent again never materialized.

Meanwhile, Defendant cultivated a friendship with an individual whom she met through friends. Defendant offered to take this friend on an all-expenses paid trip to Morocco, having informed the friend that she had a substantial trust fund in Germany at her disposal. Defendant booked a luxury villa in Marrakesh, complete with three bedrooms, a private swimming pool, and a dedicated butler. When it came time to pay, however, Defendant offered up her debit card for payment knowing that it would be declined for lack of funds and then pressured the friend into offering up her credit card instead, claiming that she would pay the friend back. The friend ended up footing the bill for the entire trip, which came to approximately \$62,000 for a six-night stay. After the trip, Defendant sent the friend fake wire confirmations to show

that she was paying her back. Yet again, the funds from the wire transfers never materialized.

On August 17 and 21, 2017, Defendant deposited two bad checks worth \$15,000 into a Signature Bank, N.A. (“Signature Bank”) account under her control. Over the next few days, Defendant withdrew approximately \$8,200 in cash before the checks were returned.

In addition to Anna Sorokin, Defendant has previously used the names Anna Sorokina, Anna Sorokin-Delvey, and Anna Delvey.