



# Court of Appeals Affirms CEO's Conviction, 10-Year Prison Sentence and \$65 million Restitution Order

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHICAGO** – The United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed Thomas C. Balsiger's criminal conviction and sentence of 10 years in prison, 3 years of supervised release and \$65 million restitution order. The Court reversed the forfeiture order portion of the sentence and sent it back to the district court to determine the proper amount of forfeiture.

Balsiger was found guilty of 12 felonies on December 5, 2016 as part of the biggest coupon fraud case to date. He is serving his sentence in a Federal prison.

Coupon Information Center (CIC) Executive Director Bud Miller, CPP, stated:

*"CIC is pleased that justice has been served. This is a victory for everyone. The rich and powerful are not above the law. Criminals engaged in theft and obstruction of justice face significant jail time and will lose the temporary profits of their illegal activities." Miller added, "CIC thanks its members and other coupon professionals who supported the cause of justice despite Balsiger's intimidation tactics. The organization appreciates everyone's courage, support and hard work. Coupons remain one of the best cost-savings opportunities for consumers nationwide. CIC will continue its efforts to bring coupon criminals to justice."*

The Coupon Information Corporation (CIC) and its members would like to thank FBI Special Agent Steve Vitale (retired); FBI Financial Analyst Jeffrey Dess; AUSA Richard G. Frohling; AUSA Stephen Ingraham; and AUSA Kelly Brown Watzka, and all of the law enforcement professionals who faithfully and persistently pursued this investigation for over a decade. Their perseverance and dedication to revealing the truth of these criminal activities in the face of threats, intimidation and delay tactics serves as an inspiration to all those who seek justice.

The Coupon Information Corporation (CIC) is a not-for-profit association of consumer product manufacturers dedicated to fighting coupon misredemption and fraud. CIC was founded to encourage integrity in connection with the redemption of manufacturers' coupons and participation in other promotional programs.