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Howard Co. man sentenced, told to repay \$940,267

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A Howard County judge put repayment ahead of prison time in sentencing Joseph Goldberg Sr. yesterday -- but some victims of the former Ellicott City title company owner said they are afraid they will end up with neither money nor justice.

Circuit Judge Diane O. Leasure said that Goldberg must spend 18 months in prison -- and pay back every penny of the nearly \$1 million he took from clients who had entrusted their money to his now-defunct company, Land Title Research Inc.

"If it's one job, two jobs, three jobs my first priority is getting these victims paid, Leasure said. She gave him a 15-year sentence with all but 18 months suspended so he has "[jail] time hanging over [his] head."

Paula Wagner, a Baltimore County schoolteacher who lost her life savings of \$76,000, was not satisfied.

"My concern is that he will not be able to pay back that amount of money," she said outside the courthouse yesterday. "It took me 20 years to save that kind of money. I think 18 months is a bit short of what I had to suffer."

Goldberg, 44, pleaded guilty to theft and failure to file a tax return in July. He has admitted stealing \$940,267.

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