



# NEWS RELEASE

## Office of the Inspector General Ellen Biben

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
April 20, 2011

### **State Construction Manager Arrested for Routinely Submitting False Time Records**

State Inspector General Ellen Biben today announced criminal charges against Gregory Ruth, a state building construction manager in Albany, who allegedly spent afternoons in bars instead of doing his job with the state Office of General Services.

Ruth routinely left his office in the Corning Tower to spend all or part of the afternoon in downtown Albany bars, according to the felony criminal complaint filed with Albany City Court. During the IG's investigation, the 53-year-old Albany resident admitted that he left work early without permission and submitted false time records to conceal this conduct, costing the state at least \$5,000 in salary paid for hours he did not work.

"When a public servant steals from the state by claiming he's working when he's not, he not only violates the public trust, he also does a disservice to the vast majority of state employees who are hard working and law abiding," said Inspector General Biben.

Ruth was arraigned today in Albany City Court on the following charges: grand larceny in the third degree, a Class D Felony; offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree, a Class E felony; and, scheming to defraud the government, also a Class E felony.

Ruth was released on his own recognizance and his next court date is scheduled for April 26.

On one occasion, the investigation found that Ruth spent most of the afternoon of Dec. 8, 2010 at an Albany bar, yet Ruth submitted a time record stating that he worked his full shift from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Ruth filed another time record stating that he was at work from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on January 24, 2011 when, in fact, he was at an Albany tavern. Ruth's time record also showed him at work on the afternoon of January 27, 2011, when he was actually back at the same tavern before he went home to meet a furnace repairman. He did not return to work for the rest of the day.

Ruth resides in Albany County. As a Building Construction Program Manager 2, Ruth works on plumbing systems in state Correctional Services projects. He has been employed by New York State since Nov. 6, 1974 and his annual salary is \$83,954.