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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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**SECTION:** State and Regional

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**HEADLINE:** Calif. man sentenced in national telemarketing fraud case

**DATELINE:** BALTIMORE

**BODY:**

A California man was sentenced to more than four years in prison for operating a national telemarketing scheme that told consumers they would receive a credit card and a preapproved line of credit in exchange for a savings club membership fee.

The scheme defrauded more than 31,000 consumers of more than \$3.6 million, U.S. Attorney Thomas DiBiagio announced Monday.

Mark Cohn, 49, of Woodside, Calif., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Andre Davis to 57 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release and ordered to pay a \$150,000 fine, DiBiagio said.

The California company **Four Star Financial Services**, where Cohn was executive vice president and general counsel, was ordered to pay a \$1 million fine. The company filed for involuntary bankruptcy in the Central District of California in June 2003.

Cohn was convicted of mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy last June for his role in the telemarketing scheme, which was based in Baltimore and employed telemarketing rooms throughout the country.

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