

Ex-Alliancebernstein Worker Janus Pleads Guilty in Computer Trespass Case

By Chris Dolmetsch - Nov 22, 2011 9:49 AM CT

A former AllianceBernstein Holding LP (AB) employee accused of stealing software from the fund manager pleaded guilty to computer trespass in New York state court in Manhattan.

Peter Jan, 35, who was an application support specialist at the investment-management company, was accused in April of stealing software used to send and receive messages related to clients' securities transactions. He was charged with computer trespass, grand larceny and unlawful duplication of computer-related materials.

He pleaded guilty to one count of felony computer trespass as part of a deal with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.'s office. Jan will be able to withdraw his plea to the felony count and plead instead to a misdemeanor charge of unauthorized use of a computer if he completes 100 hours of community service and isn't arrested, his lawyer Jeremy Saland said yesterday. As a result, Jan will face no jail time and no probation, according to the lawyer.

Prosecutors said Jan gave notice to New York-based AllianceBernstein on March 8, 2010, and was supposed to leave the company 11 days later. On four occasions, prosecutors said, he downloaded software used by the company for FIX messages, a financial information exchange standard. Jan was fired on March 15, 2010.

The case is People vs. Jan, 01784/2011, New York State Supreme Court, New York County (Manhattan.)

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