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## *Morgan Stanley Worker Indicted in a Theft Case*

BY CHAD BRAY

NEW YORK -- A former Morgan Stanley employee has been indicted on charges he stole more than \$2.5 million from the Wall Street investment bank over a seven-year period, prosecutors said Tuesday.

In a statement, Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau said Richard Garaventa Jr., a former vice president in the operations division of Morgan Stanley's institutional securities business, has been charged with one count of falsifying business records, one count of criminal possession of stolen property and multiple counts of grand larceny.

The 36-year-old Mr. Garaventa was responsible at Morgan Stanley for processing payments relating to certain corporate actions that affect stockholders, Mr. Morgenthau said. He was authorized to request or approve checks for various payments from one of the company's in-house accounts, the district attorney said.

Mr. Morgenthau said Mr. Garaventa caused 50 separate checks to be issued from an

in-house Morgan Stanley account, in amounts ranging from \$8,670 to \$74,812, between September 2001 and December 2008.

Mr. Garaventa deposited the checks into the checking account of NY Transfer Corp., an entity he incorporated in August 2001, Mr. Morgenthau said. The NY Transfer Corp. account was used to pay personal expenses, including mortgage payments, airline tickets to Aruba and Florida, at least \$30,000 in jewelry purchases, car services and restaurants, the district attorney said.

"Obviously, he's denying the allegations," said Lawrence J. Fredella, Mr. Garaventa's lawyer. "He's presumed innocent."

In a statement, Morgan Stanley said, "The alleged conduct by a former rogue employee is in direct violation of the firm's values and policies. We reported this matter to the authorities and have provided every assistance to their investigation."

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