

## Sentencing again delayed in Heath fraud case

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By LOU HIRSH / The Press-Enterprise

Sentencing for Daniel W. Heath, the key defendant in a \$190 million investment fraud case, has been rescheduled to Sept. 12. It had been slated for this morning in Riverside County Superior Court, after two previous postponements.

Judge Ronald Taylor granted a continuance request by Heath's newly appointed attorney, Christopher Oliver, who said he needed time to review the complete transcript of the nearly five-month-long trial of Heath and two other defendants. Heath was convicted in January on 400 criminal counts and faces up to 127 years in prison.

Oliver is representing Heath for sentencing and other post-trial motions, after Heath's trial attorney left the case last month.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Quesel said after Friday's proceedings his office will be delivering Oliver the entire trial transcript, totaling around 10,000 pages.

"It is unusual in our experience for a lawyer at this point to suggest he cannot finish the case without reading the whole transcript," Quesel said. "We would have preferred to have a much sooner sentencing."

Oliver could not be reached immediately for comment.

Heath, 51, was president and sole officer of the now defunct D.W. Heath & Associates, which prosecutors said bilked about 1,600 mostly elderly investors, many of whom turned over their life savings.

Judge Taylor was recently reassigned from Corona to Riverside, but the sentencing location has not been finalized. Quesel said a space larger than Taylor's current courtroom will likely be needed to accommodate former Heath investors expected to attend the sentencing.

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