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# Third ex-Citibank employee fined

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A FORMER employee of Citibank Singapore who mined the bank's computer database for customer information in 2006 was yesterday fined \$160,000. She is the third Citibank employee to be found guilty this way.

Esther Lim Siew May, 32, who was then about to start work at rival bank UBS, was fined \$8,000 on each of 20 charges to which she pleaded guilty under the Computer Misuse Act.

Nearly 170 other charges were taken into consideration.

When she was served with a writ of summons, UBS asked her to go on leave. She resigned last November without having worked a single day there and is now jobless.

She joined Citibank in 2003 as a relationship manager and was promoted three years later to a Citigold Select relationship manager post, managing customers with assets of \$1 million or more.

She reported to branch manager Jonathan Seah Thiam Heng, who was to

join UBS and has since been charged. His case and that of two others are pending. Two other employees of the bank have already been fined this year.

A district court heard that Lim, in the course of her work, had access to customer information. Deputy Public Prosecutor James Lee said that in June 2006, she was offered a job at UBS, where she was to join Seah's team. She tendered her resignation on July 3.

It was while serving her notice that she compiled and e-mailed customer information to her own personal e-mail ac-

count and to Seah's.

This was against the bank's rules. The bank found out about this and fired her. It also sued her. She has since settled its claim for \$85,000.

Mr Shashi Nathan, pleading for leniency on his client's behalf, said she had put eight years into her bank career and suffered financially from this case.

The two Citibank employees already dealt with are former vice-president Car-el Low Siok Liang, 34, who was fined \$173,000 on 22 charges in January, and her personal assistant Valarie Lim Ming Huey, 31, fined \$40,000 earlier this month on six charges.

Each computer misuse charge is punishable with a fine of up to \$100,000 or a jail term of up to 20 years or both.