



**Department of Justice**  
**United States Attorney David R. Dugas**  
**Middle District of Louisiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008  
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**ANOTHER SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA,**  
**ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Another Louisiana resident was sentenced in federal court on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

IRIS L. ROBERTS, age 27, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on October 29, 2007, to Count One of an indictment charging her with making a false and fraudulent claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. ROBERTS was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson to three years of probation and \$2,000 in restitution to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The U.S. Postal Service's Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation of this matter.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred forty-three.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at [HKFTF@leo.gov](mailto:HKFTF@leo.gov) or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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