



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas  
Middle District of Louisiana

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## **ANOTHER SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Another Louisiana resident was sentenced in federal court on Friday by U.S. District Court Judge John V. Parker on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today. SCOTT LEE ROBERTS, age 41, formerly of Orlando, Florida, was sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment, to be served concurrently for each of three federal counts of conviction; five years of supervised release with 50 hours of community service; and \$15,092 in restitution to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). The U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General; the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General; the Sacramento, California, Police Department; and the Billings, Montana, Police Department conducted the investigation of this matter.

ROBERTS pled guilty on June 6, 2006, to Counts One, Eight and Nine of an indictment, Count One charging wire fraud, and Counts Eight and Nine each charging illegal use of a Social Security Account Number. The indictment alleged that ROBERTS filed claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits with the Louisiana Department of Labor using false places of employment and false Social Security Numbers that ROBERTS knew had not been assigned by the Commissioner of Social Security to the listed DUA claimant. The DUA program for the State of Louisiana, administered by the Louisiana Department of Labor, provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment has been lost or interrupted as a result of a major disaster declared by the President of the United States. Funding for the program is provided by FEMA.

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

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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