



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas  
Middle District of Louisiana

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

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that a federal grand jury in the Middle District of Louisiana returned a fifteen-count indictment yesterday against SCOTT LEE ROBERTS on federal FEMA fraud charges.

ROBERTS, age 40, formerly of Orlando, Florida, was charged with seven counts of wire fraud and eight counts of illegal use of Social Security numbers. The indictment alleges that ROBERTS filed eight 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 the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by 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. Each of the seven wire fraud counts carries a maximum term of imprisonment of thirty years and a \$1 million fine. Each of the eight illegal use of Social Security numbers counts carries a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a \$250,000 fine.

The total number of defendants who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds stands at forty-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 members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among 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.

NOTE: An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendants. The defendants, of course, are presumed innocent until and unless he or she is proven guilty at trial.

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