

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BRIAN POSTLE, TODD HUNTER AND BRIAN NILES INDICTED  
ON FEDERAL CONSPIRACY AND MAIL FRAUD OFFENSES**

United States Attorney David M. Nissman announced today that a federal grand jury on St. Thomas returned a nine count indictment charging BRIAN POSTLE, TODD HUNTER, and BRIAN NILES with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and mail fraud.

The indictment alleges that the defendants conspired to defraud the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and insurance companies in connection with fraudulent claims of approximately \$135,000.00 in hurricane related damages from Hurricane Bertha in 1996 and Georges in September 1998.

Attorney Nissman stated that “the people of the Virgin Islands have fewer business services available to them than other residents under the United States flag. One reason is that when businesses get victimized by fraud, they feel that no one is doing anything to stop it the fraud and they leave the territory.” He further stated that “we all suffer when federal programs are undermined by fraud.” Today’s indictment should send a clear message that we intend to stop these types of fraudulent practices.

The statutory maximum penalty for Mail Fraud is a term of incarceration of 30 years and a \$1,000,000 fine or twice the pecuniary gain from the offense or twice the loss to the victim of the crime.

Attorney Nissman emphasized that the Indictment is merely a document charging the defendants of a crime and that the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

The investigation in this case was conducted jointly by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General and the Small Business Administration, Office of Inspector General. Attorney Nissman commended these agencies for their diligent efforts in this case.