



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Alex Zakharia

Miami Surgeon Sentenced in Detroit Federal Court

A vascular surgeon licensed in Florida, and practicing in the Miami area, forfeited his medical license and was sentenced to 30 days in a half-way house, one year probation, and a \$100,000 fine, all for lying while giving testimony as an expert witness, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Alex Zakharia, 68, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Paul D. Borman. Zakharia was also ordered to pay more than \$16,000 in restitution.

Zakharia plead guilty in 2007 to contempt of court. He had held himself out as an expert witness in medical malpractice cases, and in order to enhance his credibility in cases involving coronary artery bypass grafts, Dr. Zakharia falsely testified that he had performed at least 10-12 such surgeries each year, when in fact he had performed none for the several years before his testimony.

At sentencing, Judge Borman stated that the offense was a serious violation of the processes of the court. United States Attorney Murphy stated, "Today's sentence demonstrates that those who hold themselves out as 'experts' offering testimony in legal

proceedings must respect the system as well as their profession by telling the truth. Lying under oath is a crime and when it takes place in federal proceedings in Detroit, we will in all likelihood prosecute it.”

In announcing the sentence, United States Attorney Murphy commended the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Lynn Helland.