



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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April 3, 2006

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Clarence Howard Brown**

**INKSTER MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL KIDNAPING AND SEX TRAFFICKING  
CHARGES INVOLVING A 14-YEAR-OLD MINOR**

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A 33-year-old Inkster man was sentenced today to 25 years on charges of kidnaping, transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity and sex trafficking offenses, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, of the Detroit Division, and Col. Tadarial J. Sturdivant, Michigan State Police.

Clarence Howard Brown was sentenced in United States District Court by Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

Brown was convicted by a jury concluding a four-day trial before United States District Judge Arthur J. Tarnow. The evidence presented at trial showed that Brown and his girlfriend Holly Marie Hollis, under the pretenses of transporting a then 14-year-old minor to her home, abducted the victim and, instead transported her to Fort Wayne, Indiana, forcing her into prostitution at a truck stop. During his efforts to instill fear in the child, Brown raped the victim twice and otherwise physically abused her. The victim eventually escaped after a female truck

driver befriended her and agreed to take her home.

Hollis pleaded guilty on August 26, 2005 and was later sentenced to 46 months.

“This significant prison sentence is appropriate in light of the revolting conduct of the defendant in exploiting an innocent minor. It is an example of the clear and continuing commitment of this office to the Eastern District of Michigan’s Child Protection Initiative, which is intended to ensure that we are doing everything we possibly can to protect and take care of our children.” United States Attorney Murphy said.

Murphy commended the work of the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Michigan State Police in the investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Dawn Ison.



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April 10, 2006

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Quasand D. Lewis**

**LEADER OF DETROIT DRUG CONSPIRACY PLEADS GUILTY**

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A 35-year-old West Bloomfield man pleaded guilty to charges of narcotics trafficking and money laundering, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Robert Corso, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Novi Police Chief David Molloy.

Pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn was Quasand Daniell Lewis, the principal supervisor of a criminal enterprise involving the distribution of more than 30,000 kilograms of marijuana in Detroit, California, Arizona and elsewhere.

In July 2005, a grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of Michigan at Detroit returned an indictment charging Lewis and 22 other individuals with various drug trafficking and money laundering offenses. The defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute marijuana

and cocaine, and with money laundering, in the Detroit area and elsewhere, from 1994 through the present.

At today's plea hearing, Lewis admitted that he engaged in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 10,000 kilograms of marijuana. Lewis also pled guilty to money laundering, and admitted that he engaged in financial transactions knowing that the properties involved in those transactions constituted or were traceable to the proceeds of drug trafficking. Lewis admitted that he organized and managed the organization which distributed marijuana here in the Detroit area.

Under the terms of his plea agreement, Lewis faces up to 264 months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000.

The indictment also charged criminal forfeiture. In his plea agreement, Lewis has agreed to the judicial forfeiture of more than \$9.5 million in various assets, including his interest in real properties, motor vehicles, jewelry, bank accounts, and cash. An additional \$8.75 million in currency was seized and has already been forfeited from the Quasand Lewis organization, including currency that was seized from a Novi hotel room in March 2004, as well as cash seized in Ohio, Oklahoma, and Michigan. The total forfeiture, to date, from the Quasand Lewis organization exceeds \$18.4 million.

"I salute the dedication and tireless efforts of the entire law enforcement team who worked together to bring down this drug dealer, who for over a decade, subjected our citizens to violence, and our neighborhoods to the devastation associated with narcotics trafficking," United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said. "Their dedication reflects the finest in cooperation and teamwork between federal and local law enforcement agencies."

IRS Special Agent in Charge Aouate stated that, "Drug dealers, like any other criminals, are motivated by greed. IRS Criminal Investigation's unique role is to follow the money trail left by drug dealers and seize the money supply that feeds their organization. Our intent is to dismantle their financial empire."

Special Agent in Charge Corso stated, "I am extremely pleased with today's

announcement because it confirms that Mr. Lewis will be staying in prison for a very long time. With each guilty plea and conviction in this case comes another victory for the people of Detroit."

A sentencing date will be set by the Court.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Novi Police Department, Michigan State Police, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Detroit Police Department, Dearborn Police Department, Farmington Hills Police Department, West Bloomfield Police Department, Troy Police Department, Sterling Heights Police Department, Warren Police Department, and the Oak Park Police Department participated in this investigation.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Janice Terbush and Rita Foley.



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April 12, 2006

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**EVENT: Plea Guilty**

**Defendant: Stuart W. Bilyeu**

**ANN ARBOR DOCTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGE**

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An Ann Arbor physician pleaded guilty today to a drug charge stemming from the operation of his medical practice, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Robert Corso, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration and Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Stuart W. Bilyeu, D.O., 45, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before Judge Robert H. Cleland.

“The type of criminal violations committed by Bilyeu, a licensed doctor, are taken very seriously by my office because they evidence a total abuse of trust by the physician and because they endanger the safety of their patients,” said United States Attorney Murphy. “Doctors who endanger the public for personal gain can expect to serve time in prison.”

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that between

January 2003 and May of 2005, while Dr. Bilyeu operated medical practices in Taylor and Detroit, he illegally prescribed over 60,000 dosage units of Schedule II, III and IV drugs.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Dr. Bilyeu faces up to 60 months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. The anticipated sentencing guideline range is 57-60 months of imprisonment.

A sentencing hearing was set by Judge Cleland for 2 p.m. July 13, 2006. The defendant remains on bond, subject to the condition imposed on July 20, 2005, that the defendant not prescribe any prescription drug controlled substances.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Wayne F. Pratt.



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April 13, 2006

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Michael Bracey et al**

**FIVE MEN INDICTED ON MURDER FOR HIRE CHARGES**

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Five men were indicted on April 5, 2006 for conspiracy to use interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder-for-hire, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. The indictment, unsealed April 13, 2006, in federal district court, alleges that Roy Christopher West, 31, of Akron, Ohio; Marcus Lamont Freeman, 27, of Detroit; Michael Eldren Bracey, 36, of Detroit,; Alvino Dewight Cornelius, 30, of Warren; and Alseddrick Dewunn West, 34, of Akron Ohio, conspired to murder Leonard Day, a Detroit resident, who was 34 years old when he was murdered on Kilbourne Street in Detroit, on December 20, 2005.

U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Bracey and Alseddrick West were arrested on April 13, 2006. Freeman is under the custody of Wayne County on unrelated state charges. Roy West and Cornelius are being sought for arrest at this time.



The indictment charges that, on or about November 10, 2005, Leonard Day stole about \$100,000 in U.S. currency, about \$250,000 worth of jewelry and a firearm from the home of Roy West in Ohio, and then fled back to Detroit.

The grand jury further charged that after discovering the theft, Roy West used a cellular telephone to inform Cornelius, Bracey and others of the theft and to instruct them to begin searching for Day. According to the indictment, Cornelius, Bracey and Alsedrick West each expressed an intent to kill Day and/or Day's family and associates and those defendants further assisted in the search for Day.

The grand jury charged that in December 2005, Freeman contacted West by cellular telephone asking about the location of a house on Kilbourne Street in Detroit and that Freeman later told Roy West that he "got it." According to the indictment, on November 20, 2006, Day was shot to death in the driveway of a house on Kilbourne Street. The grand jury further charged that a) at about the same time, Freeman telephoned Roy West singing, "We get rich, Ohio," and saying that "the situation is over with;" b) that Freeman then said that he and "Steve" were heading to Ohio to see Roy West; and c) that thereafter, Marcus Lamont Freeman went to Ohio and received a payment from Roy Christopher West for the murder of Leonard Day.

"The conduct charged by the grand jury in this case is reprehensible," U.S. Attorney Murphy said. "Any criminal act resulting in the intentional taking of human life is of course the most serious that our office deals with and we will do all we can to hold individuals fully responsible for this sort of behavior."

The subject charge carries a penalty of life imprisonment or death, and a fine of no more than \$250,000.00.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

These charges and subsequent arrests are the result of a joint investigation involving the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Detroit Police Department, and the

Greater Akron Area HIDTA Initiative, which is a task force led by the Akron offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Agency. Mr. Murphy also expressed appreciation for the cooperation and assistance of the United States Attorney's Office in Akron, Ohio. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Elizabeth A. Stafford and Michael C. Leibson.



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April 19, 2006

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Curtis Cobb**

**GUN TRAFFICKER SENTENCED**

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Curtis Cobb, 32, of Melvindale was sentenced today to 27 months imprisonment for weapons charges announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Michigan Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Cobb pleaded guilty in December 2005 to a seven count indictment charging him with false statement to a federal firearms licensee; possession of firearms with obliterated serial numbers; and dealing in firearms without a license.

At the time of his plea, Cobb admitted to the Court that he purchased approximately 42 handguns from several gun shops located in the state of Ohio. At the time of the purchases, Cobb provided false information on documents related to the sale of the firearms. Cobb transported the guns to Michigan and filed the serial numbers off the weapons. Cobb then sold seven of the firearms to an undercover ATF agent in the parking lot of a McDonald's restaurant located in the city of Detroit. In addition, ATF recovered three additional firearms during a search of Cobb's apartment and automobile. The location of the remaining 32

firearms is unknown.

United States Attorney Murphy stated that, "Prosecuting individuals who traffic in illegal firearms is part of my office's continuing commitment to reduce gun violence in our communities. We will never cease enforcement of these important laws designed to reduce gun violence. "

"A critical component of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is targeting individuals who illegally traffic firearms, states SAC Goddard. ATF remains committed to identifying and prosecuting the sources of illegal firearms into the Detroit metropolitan area. We has seen tremendous success in this area."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeanine Jones.



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April 20, 2006

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Daniel Stuart**

**JACKSON RESIDENT FOUND GUILTY OF FEDERAL  
DRUG AND WEAPONS CHARGES**

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Jackson resident Daniel Lee Stuart, 59, was found guilty on April 19, 2006, by a Federal Jury in United States District Court in Detroit on charges of possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute, possessing firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking, operating a drug premises, possessing a destructive device, and possessing firearms as an illegal drug user, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Schneider.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Stuart was selling pound-size quantities of marijuana out of his residence on Edgewood Street in Jackson. On March 25, 2003, officers from the Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team ("JNET"), which was composed of officers from the Jackson Police Department, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Blackman Township

Department of Public Safety, and the Michigan State Police, executed a search warrant at Stuart's residence. The search yielded approximately six pounds of marijuana packaged for sale, two scales for weighing drugs, eight firearms, a "Street Sweeper" shotgun, and a bullet-proof vest. The "Street Sweeper" is a revolving-cylinder shotgun with a capacity of 12 rounds and is classified by the federal government as a destructive device. Stuart, who was not at home at the time of the search, arrived home during the search and was arrested.

The jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a two-day trial before United States District Judge George Caram Steeh.

"This case clearly demonstrates our commitment to aggressively prosecute drug traffickers in Jackson County," United States Attorney Murphy said. "I am grateful to the hard-working officers at the Jackson Police Department, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the Blackman Township Department of Public Safety, and the Michigan State Police, who did such an excellent job investigating this case and bringing Daniel Stuart to justice."

"The Stuart case is yet another example of how the federal government works closely with state and local offices to combat drug trafficking. The Project Safe Neighborhood initiative helps make our neighborhoods safer by getting armed drug dealers and other violent criminals with firearms off our streets," SAC Goddard said.

A sentencing date has been set for July 20, 2006. Stuart faces a mandatory minimum of 5 years imprisonment. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, Stuart faces a range of 123 to 138 months imprisonment (approximately 10 to 11 1/2 years).



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April 20, 2006

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Jon Rutherford et al**

**OFFICIALS OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
CHARGED WITH INCOME TAX EVASION**

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A federal grand jury in Detroit has returned an indictment charging two officials of Metro Emergency Services ("MES"), a Highland Park, Michigan non-profit organization which runs homeless shelter and other programs, with conspiracy and income tax evasion, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Jon Rutherford, 57, of Orchard Lake, the President and Chief Executive Officer of MES, and Judith Bugaiski, 47 of Sterling Heights, the Controller of MES, were charged with conspiracy to evade federal income taxes, as well as 19 additional counts charging tax evasion and failure to pay taxes.

U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Maurice A. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

The first count of a twenty count indictment charges that from approximately November 1997 to April 2004, Mr. Rutherford and Ms. Bugaiski conspired to:

- ◆ defraud the Internal Revenue Service
- ◆ evade the personal income taxes of Mr. Rutherford
- ◆ fail to pay over to the Internal Revenue Services taxes withheld from employees

- of Metro Emergency Services and its various divisions, and
- ◆ falsify tax returns for a related property management company.

The other 19 counts charge specific violations of the tax code that are related to the allegations in the conspiracy count as well as another conspiracy charge that Mr. Rutherford and Ms. Bugaiski attempted to impede the I.R.S. investigation by presenting false documents.

Today's charges allege that the defendants diverted proceeds received by a tax exempt non-profit organization and then used those funds for political contributions and for Rutherford's personal benefit. The defendants also withheld income from employees to pay taxes, but then kept this money rather than using it to pay taxes.

U.S. Attorney Murphy stated that, "Today's charges are quite serious and mark out a warning against any who would abuse their tax-exempt status for private or political gain."

SAC Aouate stated that, "The IRS Criminal Investigation will vigorously pursue any individual who uses tax-exempt non-profit organizations in schemes to defraud the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS takes the abuse of such tax exempt entities very seriously."

An indictment is only a charge, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven otherwise.





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April 20, 2006

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Paul Sexton**

**WILLIS MAN IS SENTENCED FOR FALSE OATH IN BANKRUPTCY**

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On April 19, 2006, a Willis man was sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment followed by 4 months home confinement for making a false oath in the course of bankruptcy proceedings involving his company, "Paul's Cleaning Service", United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Office of the U.S. Trustee, Marion J. Mack, Jr. Assistant U.S. Trustee.

Paul E. Sexton, 41, of Willis, Michigan, was sentenced by United States District Judge Patrick J. Duggan.

Sexton pleaded guilty on December 8, 2005 to one count of making a false oath in bankruptcy. On January 18, 2000, Sexton filed a petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. This request was filed on behalf of Sexton's company "Paul's Cleaning Service." During proceedings related to that case a document purporting to be an

order issued by United States Bankruptcy Judge Walter Shapero was sent to several clients of Sexton's company in an attempt to stop collection activities by a creditor of the company. Judge Shapero never issued the order and ordered Sexton to appear in his court on October 25, 2000 to testify about his knowledge of the false document. At that hearing Sexton knowingly and intentionally testified falsely, under oath, that he did not prepare or cause the preparation of the false order.

"We will treat any abuse of our federal court system as a matter of utmost gravity. This is an appropriate penalty for someone who forges court orders in order to perpetuate fraudulent conduct, and lies about it under oath. We will not tolerate such flagrant abuse of the judicial system's integrity," United States Attorney Murphy said. "With our partners in the FBI and the U.S. Trustees Office, we will continue to aggressively pursue such cases."

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the help of the U.S. Trustee's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan.



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April 25, 2006

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Brian Cox**

**PLYMOUTH ACCOUNTANT PLEADS GUILTY IN TAX FRAUD SCHEME**

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The owner of CFO Solutions, Inc., of Plymouth, Michigan, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with 42 counts of filling false claims and 11 counts of preparing false tax documents, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

Pleading guilty was Brian Cox, age 48, of Downers Grove, Illinois, formerly of Salem Township, Michigan. Judge Arthur J. Tarnow scheduled sentencing for July 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

The information at the plea hearing showed that Cox targeted small business owners who were involved in tax disputes with the IRS. Cox approached the owners and officers of these companies who had tax liens or were participating in a repayment plan with the IRS and offered the ability to reduce or eliminate their company tax obligations and get a tax refund. Cox told the small businesses owners that he could "reclassify" the wages and income paid to

them as the repayment of loans, thereby eliminating the companies' tax obligations to the IRS. Cox assured the owners and officers that his plan was legal, which it was not, and usually charged between \$2,000 and \$7,000 for his services.

According to the indictment, Cox, an accountant and tax preparer, devised a scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service by preparing and filing false and fictitious tax documents which indicated that previously filed tax records were incorrect, and that tax refunds were now due, when in fact no refund was due. In some cases, Cox had the owners sign tax forms in blank and later added false figure and statements revising the company's true and correct financial condition. Some of the false information included reclassifying wages and income as the repayment of owner/officer loans and statements that prior reported funds were made in error.

From November 2000 through April 2001, Cox filed false claims for tax refunds totaling over \$195,000 for various small business owners.

U.S. Attorney Murphy stated that, "Our tax laws depend upon the voluntary compliance of our citizens and the honesty and integrity of tax preparers. When a tax preparer engages in a scheme to defraud the IRS, he cheats not only the public and the government, but also the tax payer client. We take tax fraud seriously in this district. This prosecution demonstrates my office's continuing efforts to enforce tax laws that were set up for the good of all and to deter those who would subvert them."

Aouate warns taxpayers, "There are always people who target and take advantage of individuals in a venerable position. Don't compound your tax problems by buying into a too good to be true solution, because no matter who prepares your tax forms, you are ultimately responsible for the financial burden left behind."

A conviction of filling false claims carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for each count. A conviction of preparing false tax documents carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for each count.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher Varner.



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April 25, 2006

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: ICD Group Metals, LLC, [ICD]**

**NEW YORK COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY TO CUSTOMS FRAUD**

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A commodities trading company from New York City, New York, pleaded guilty today to an information charging it with a criminal violation of the customs laws of the United States, specifically, with Entry of Goods by Means of False Statement, United States Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge Paul D. Borman in Detroit was ICD Group Metals, LLC, [ICD] located in New York, New York.

The offense involved the importation of industrial goods into the United States from Canada under false pretenses to avoid anti-dumping duties.

According to documents filed in the case, ICD was a commodities trading company which bought and sold, among other things, silicon metal used by industry world-wide. From

September 22 to December 17, 1998, ICD aiding and abetting a Canadian company, Ni-Met Resources of Ontario, imported into the United States through ports at Port Huron, Detroit and Buffalo, New York, 42 shipments of silicon metal originating from the Peoples Republic of China. The goods were, however, disguised, both by their packing and by declarations on importation documents, as the products of South Africa, in order to evade anti-dumping duties of nearly 140% imposed on Chinese silicon metal at that time. By doing so, it is estimated that approximately \$890,000 in duties were evaded.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, ICD paid a total of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the government (\$890,000 in restitution to the United States Treasury, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and an additional \$110,000 to the Department of Treasury Forfeiture Fund). In addition, the Court, at the time of sentencing, may impose a fine of up to \$534,000 and place the company on probation. The company has also agreed to cooperate in the further investigation and prosecution of this matter, and both ICD and its principal member, Menachem Zwick, are subject to further prosecution in the future should they violate this agreement.

“Customs fraud is serious business and the excellent result in this case evidences the seriousness with which we take these sorts of economic crimes”, stated United States Attorney Murphy. “Anyone who thinks of violating federal anti-dumping laws at one of the four eastern Michigan ports should think again: we have an elite cadre of economic crime professionals ready to aggressively prosecute every kind of sophisticated criminal activity imaginable.”

“ICD Group Metals orchestrated a complex scheme to defraud the United States of approximately \$890,000” said Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. “The guilty plea demonstrates the unique ability of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to investigate, expose, and bring to justice those who profit by exploiting trade regulations established to protect American industry and consumers.”

A sentencing date will be set by Judge Borman’s chambers.

The investigation of this case was conducted by the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.