



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
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**For Immediate Release:**

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May 1, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Deborah J. Lazenby**

**BANKER INVOLVED IN SBA LOAN FRAUD PLEADS GUILTY**

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United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy today announced that an assistant vice president of Huntington National Bank pleaded guilty in United States District Court to conspiracy and misapplication of bank funds. The case is part of the ongoing investigation of SBA-guaranteed loans originated by Business Loan Express, LLC ("BLX").

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Eric Thorson, Inspector General, Small Business Administration and Special Agent in Charge Desmond Scanlon, United States Secret Service, Detroit Field Office.

Deborah J. Lazenby, 49, of Canton, Michigan, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood to charges of conspiracy and misapplication of bank funds. Lazenby was an assistant vice president of Huntington National Bank and managed Huntington's Oakman Blvd. (Dearborn) branch until she was fired in November 2005. The charges against Lazenby arose from her role in assisting borrowers in fraudulently obtaining SBA-guaranteed loans issued by BLX. Working with a loan broker, Lazenby supplied bank letters falsely verifying accounts and account balances of loan applicants. Lazenby also assisted the loan broker in "flipping" properties such as gas stations and oil change businesses. Lazenby allowed the loan broker to use unpaid-for Huntington National Bank official checks to purchase properties which were then quickly resold at

an inflated price to persons purchasing the property with fraudulently obtained SBA-guaranteed loans originated by BLX. The official checks would be "paid" for only after the property had been resold at the inflated price. In her plea, Lazenby specifically admitted that on June 21, 2005, she gave the loan broker four unfunded Huntington checks totaling more than \$2.8 million. The loan broker used the checks to conduct a "flip" of three oil change properties.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Schemes like this deprive our community of much needed funds that can be used to create new businesses, by diverting the resources away from honest borrowers, an especially sad consequence during hard economic times. Fraud in connection with small business financing is even more egregious when it involves a bank official."

The conspiracy charge carries a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The misapplication of bank funds charge is punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment and a \$1 million fine. Sentencing is scheduled for August 9, 2007 at 2 p.m.

The SBA loan fraud investigation, which continues, is being conducted by special agents of the U.S. Small Business Administration-Office of Inspector General and the United States Secret Service. Stephen T. Robinson is the Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the investigation.



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May 1, 2007

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**EVENT: Arraignment**

**Defendant: Samuel Abraham**

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS MAN CHARGED IN ADVANCE FEE  
CHEMES ON NON-EXISTENT HIGH DOLLAR LOANS**

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On April 30, 2007, a 50-year-old Bloomfield Hills man was arraigned after being indicted on three counts of tax evasion, two counts of wire fraud, and two counts of engaging in monetary transactions in criminally derived property, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. The Indictment also seeks criminal forfeiture of at least \$3,150,000 and other assets, including a 1996 Mercedes Benz and a 2005 Cadillac Escalade.

According to the Indictment, during 2003 & 2004, Samuel Abraham, doing business as the Walton Trust Ltd., was introduced to representatives of European Sea's Ltd., an Irish company, and Hallonlodge Proprietary Ltd., an Australian company, who were seeking a large credit facility for their business projects. The Indictment charges that Abraham falsely represented to them that he could secure \$10 million and \$100 million for their respective projects, in exchange for fees of \$150,000 from European Sea's Ltd. and \$3 million from Hallonlodge. Abraham allegedly provided counterfeit "funding bank letters" from Citibank in New York in order to "confirm" the availability of the \$10 million and \$100 million lines of credit so he could disburse the \$150,000 and \$3 million fees for his own personal use, knowing that there were no monies available at Citibank for either European Sea's or Hallonlodge.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Complex international financial fraud

schemes, such as the one described in today's Indictment, will draw the intense scrutiny of my office, the FBI, and the IRS. We will pursue both criminal prosecution, as well as forfeiture of ill-gotten gains."

According to the Indictment, since 1999 Abraham has obtained from \$10 to \$15 million through his advance fee and investment schemes. For the 2000 through 2002 tax years, Abraham failed to file tax returns in spite of his substantial income from his investment fees. The Indictment also alleges that Abraham also made false statements to the Internal Revenue Service in evading payment of his income tax liabilities.

A \$50,000 unsecured bond was set for Abraham, who was also ordered not to solicit funds from any investors.

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 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation leading up to the Indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division and the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ross I. MacKenzie.



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May 1, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Theodore Walker**

**VASSER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO INTERSTATE  
SHIPMENT/ TRANSPORTATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

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A 35-year-old Vassar, Michigan man, who possessed over six hundred images of child pornography pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement were Andrew Arena, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Detroit and Desmond Scanlon, Special Agent-in-Charge of the United States Secret Service in Detroit.

Theodore Walker pleaded guilty to shipment/transportation of child pornography before United States District Judge Thomas L. Ludington in Bay City, Michigan.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea established that during September, 2006, Walker transported child pornography images, via the Internet, to an undercover agent in Tampa, Florida. These images primarily consisted of prepubescent children posing nude and engaging in sexually explicit acts with adults. Some of the child pornographic pictures involved torture and/or bondage.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Federal laws targeting the child pornography trade aim to eliminate the victimization of children everywhere, because those who possess child pornography create the market for images of child sexual abuse. We will prosecute these crimes vigorously."

Shipment/transportation of child pornography is punishable by a minimum mandatory

sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000 dollars. A plea agreement signed by the defendant calls for a term of imprisonment of 121-151 months. Sentencing is scheduled for August 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeanine Jones.

U.S. Attorney Murphy noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood initiative. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).



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May 4, 2007

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: John Dingle**

**FORMER DETROIT LAW DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY INDICTED**

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An attorney who was formerly employed with Law Department for the City of Detroit , John Dingle, 44, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of mail fraud and conspiracy to commit mail fraud United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

The 15-count indictment charges that between August 2001 and June 2002, Dingle used his position in the City of Detroit Law Department to obtain information about certain residential properties in Detroit that had previously been owned by MCA Financial Corporation, which was in bankruptcy. Dingle then prepared and sold fraudulent quitclaim deeds to some of the properties to witting and unwitting purchasers. The fraudulent quitclaim deeds were then recorded with the Wayne County Register of Deeds.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "An attorney who represents a municipal government must not use his position to take advantage of real estate transactions, which is what today's charges allege. My office will vigorously investigate and pursue such allegations of abuse of the public trust."

SAC Arena advised, "Public corruption remains a criminal investigative priority for the

FBI and we will continue to investigate any public officials - elected or appointed - who abuses their office for personal gain.”

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 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Engstrom.





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May 3, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: John Thomas**

**MICHIGAN RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR  
SELLING MORE THAN \$1 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT  
SOFTWARE ON eBay**

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DETROIT – A Michigan man has been sentenced to 5 months in custody and 5 months home confinement for selling more than \$1 million worth of counterfeit computer software on the eBay internet auction site, Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the U.S. Justice Department's Criminal Division and Stephen J. Murphy, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced today.

James Thomas, 38, of Belleville, Mich., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds of the Eastern District of Michigan for selling counterfeit computer software over the Internet. At his guilty plea on Dec. 13, 2006, Thomas admitted that he purchased counterfeit Rockwell Automation computer software through the eBay internet auction site and then duplicated and resold the copyrighted software to other eBay users. Between August 26, 2003 and September 7, 2004, using two different eBay user names, Thomas sold counterfeit copies of Rockwell Automation software in 49 separate eBay auctions, receiving more than

\$14,625. The actual retail value of this software was in excess of \$1 million.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Intellectual property theft is especially dangerous to our economy because it involves stealing the competitive edge of those who invest their money and creativity to be innovative. We must protect the intellectual property of U.S. companies if we are going to be able to compete in the digital age economy. Both my office and the Department of Justice as a whole have made prosecution of cyber crime and intellectual property cases a high priority. I commend the FBI and the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Department of Justice for their excellent work which led to today's sentence."

The case arose from a Department of Justice initiative to combat online auction piracy. FBI agents executed a search warrant at Thomas' residence in Columbiaville on Dec. 15, 2004, seizing numerous computers, CDs, and other devices used to manufacture the counterfeit software and sell it on eBay. Thomas admitted that he became aware of Rockwell Automation software through his job with Ford Motor Company, and that he understood the software applications and how they are used. He further admitted that he knew it was illegal for him to sell the copyrighted software, but did so because "it was easy money."

Rockwell Automation Inc. is a global provider of automation, power, control, and information solutions. It produces, among other things, specialized factory management software. The majority of the software applications sold by this defendant on eBay had retail prices ranging from approximately \$900 to \$11,325. Rockwell Automation owns the registered copyrights to all Rockwell/Allen Bradley software and the copyright on the product's packaging.

Thomas has forfeited the computers and other equipment used in the offense and will pay Rockwell Automation more than \$15,660 in restitution.

The case was prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheldon Light, Chief of the Economic Crime Unit of the Eastern District of Michigan, and trial attorney Matthew J. Bassiur of the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 4, 2007**

## **OPERATION TIDE TASK FORCE ARRESTS MEMBERS OF THE 'DETROIT THUG LORDZ'**

DETROIT – United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings announced today the arrests of several members of an armed drug trafficking organization, once identified as the 'Detroit Thug Lordz,' or 'DTL,' operating in Detroit's Northwest District over the past few years. This TIDE (Tactical Intelligence Driven Enforcement) investigation, lead by ATF and DPD also received assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA,) and the Michigan State Police (MSP.)

TIDE Task Force investigators identified fifteen members in the criminal drug organization. A 16-count federal indictment was unsealed today in the U.S. District Court, Eastern Judicial District of Michigan, identifying nine members for drug and firearm violations. Due to the ages of the remaining six members (all under 18 years of age) warrant requests are being presented to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

The federal indictment includes 13 counts charging the distribution of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana from May 2, 2006, to Feb. 13, 2007. The most serious charge, conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, carries a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence. The indictment also charges two of the defendants, Isaias Quesada and Omar Jay Gladson, both of whom have previous felony convictions, with firearm violations.

Five members charged in the federal conspiracy, arrested this morning, are scheduled to make their initial appearances in federal court at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon. These defendants, all from Detroit, include: Isaias Quesada, 22 (head of the organization); Nicholas Jamie, 20; Shane Aben 18; Randi Carl Diggs, 18; and Karen Haskins, 49. Two additional federal defendants, Omar Jay Gladson, 19, and Rodolfo Moreno, 20 of Detroit, were already in custody on unrelated state charges. Two members considered fugitives at this time are; Michael Moreno, 18; and Hassan Aljibory, 20.

-More-

“These outcomes have only been possible due to the shared intelligence and combined resources of my office and our federal, state and local law enforcement partners,” said Murphy. “Our greatest reward is seeing results like this from the commitment of these men and women to work together over the long-term for the greater good of our communities. Thanks to the funding made available through Project Safe Neighborhoods, we have been able to implement the intelligence-driven strategy of TIDE to fight gang activity.”

“This case highlights the success of the TIDE team approach. TIDE is an initiative that uses innovative technology, analytical investigative resources, and an integrated law enforcement strategy to identify, disrupt, arrest and prosecute the most violent criminals in Detroit. The federal indictments of these nine gang members, and the anticipated state prosecution of six others, will remove 15 additional gang members from our streets,” stated Goddard.

Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings stated, “Operation TIDE has become a successful example of how city, state, and federal law enforcement agencies can work together to address emerging crime issues. The agencies benefit from the comprehensive sharing of information but the true success comes when residents are able to witness a shift in negative concerns that affect their quality of life. This is happening within the neighborhoods of the Northwest District.”

Project Safe Neighborhoods Operation TIDE is the unprecedented, long-term law enforcement and community collaboration where federal, state, county and local law enforcement officials meet regularly and work in cooperation to reduce violent crimes and prevent recidivism by focusing on the “worst of the worst” in Northwest Detroit, Detroit’s largest police district. Since its inception in May 2006, Operation TIDE has resulted in a 35 percent decrease in fatal and non-fatal shootings due, in part, to a total of 503 felony arrests and impromptu home visits to parolees. Other PSN Operation TIDE Task Force partners include the United States Marshal’s Service (USMS,) the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI,) the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department (WCSD,) the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office (WCPO,) and the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC.)

For information about Project Safe Neighborhoods, contact Peggy Goodwin at 313.715.0199 or 800.891.8881 and visit [www.psnworks.org](http://www.psnworks.org). Citizens with information about illegal guns, gangs with guns, armed drug trafficking or the trafficking of illegal guns are encouraged to call 800.ATF.GUNS safely and with the ability to remain anonymous.

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May 8, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Kalil Khalil**

**DEARBORN MAN PLEADS GUILTY  
IN \$20 MILLION MORTGAGE FRAUD**

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A resident of Dearborn pleaded guilty today to one count of wire fraud in connection with a scheme to defraud mortgage lenders out of over \$20 million, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Entering the guilty plea before U.S. District Judge David M. Lawson was Kalil Khalil, 36. At the hearing, Khalil admitted that during a 2½-year period beginning in January 2001, he prepared fraudulent loan applications and related documents that were submitted to mortgage lenders. Each of the loan packages submitted to a mortgage lender was fraudulent in one or more of the following ways: the purpose of the loan was not to buy or refinance a residence; the borrower described on the application was not the true borrower; the description of the borrower's employment was false; documents purporting to substantiate the borrower's employment (W-2 Forms, check stubs) were bogus; the appraisal was inflated and forged; title to the property was not free and clear, and the title company purporting to guarantee clear title (Taylor Title, Downriver Title, or Tri-County Title) was merely a name used by Khalil and an associate, Tariq Hamad, to carry out the scheme; and photographs were included that depicted a property other than the property identified in the loan application.

Many of the fraudulent loan packages were approved and the loan proceeds were wired

from the mortgage lenders, which were located outside of the State of Michigan, to bank accounts controlled by Khalil and Hamad that were located in metropolitan Detroit in the names of the straw title companies. Khalil and Hamad used most of the fraud proceeds to buy and sell stocks as day-traders.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "This type of outrageous fabrication of basic loan documents caused over \$ 20 million in losses. Mortgage fraud costs lenders millions and undermines the credibility of the entire market, hurting especially first-time entrants into the market who will find it much harder to get loans to support their aspirations for home ownership. The FBI deserves kudos for pursuing this kind of significant fraud."

Under his plea agreement with the government, Khalil faces up to 108 months' imprisonment and \$250,000 in fines and could be ordered to pay \$12.7 million in restitution to the lenders. He also agreed to forfeit his interests in several bank and securities accounts. Khalil is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Lawson on August 20.

Tariq Hamad pleaded guilty before Judge Lawson to the same wire fraud scheme on December 19, 2006. Under his plea agreement with the government, Hamad faces up to 135 months' imprisonment and \$250,000 in fines and could be ordered to pay \$15.5 million in restitution to the lenders. He also agreed to forfeit his interests in seven bank and securities accounts. Hamad is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Lawson on May 15.

The total loss to the mortgage lenders resulting from Khalil's and Hamad's criminal conduct is \$21.7 million.

The investigation, still ongoing, has been conducted by the FBI. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen Hiyama and Julie Beck.



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May 11, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Hadianto Djoko Djuliarso**

**INDONESIAN ARMS DEALER SENTENCED TO 48 MONTHS IN PRISON**

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An Indonesian businessman who had been convicted of violating the Arms Export Control Act was sentenced to a term of 48 months in prison and had \$600,000 forfeited to the government, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Richard Zott, Resident Agent in Charge, Central Field Office, of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the U.S. Department of Defense.

The defendant, Hadianto Djoko Djuliarso, age 41, of Jakarta, Indonesia will be deported from the United States at the end of his jail term. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge John Feikens.

The sentence resulted from DJULIARSO's attempts to purchase military equipment, including radar and guidance parts for military aircraft, and smuggle those items out of the

United States. As part of the same scheme DJULIARSO and other members of the conspiracy also took steps to purchase and illegally export millions of dollars worth of machine guns, sniper rifles and other weapons, and also made inquiries into purchasing Sidewinder missiles and a large quantity of strafing ammunition.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Strict controls are in place to prevent sophisticated U.S. military equipment from falling into the wrong hands. In this case, decisive federal law enforcement action interrupted a plot to illegally export strategic military equipment from the United States, apprehended the four arms dealers, and sent them to prison."

"This case reveals the importance of keeping sensitive US military components out of the wrong hands," said Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "The joint work of ICE and DCIS halted the illegal proliferation of arms and strategic technology."

Special Agent in Charge Richard Zott, of the DCIS Central Field Office, stated "One of the highest priorities of DCIS is to keep sensitive military munitions and equipment from illegal theft and proliferation. DCIS, along with ICE, has been successful in stemming the illegal flow of these items, and we will continue to aggressively pursue any potential violations of law."

The underlying scheme was uncovered by federal agents working in Michigan and Hawaii, who arrested the targets before any of the defense articles were allowed to leave the country. Agents of the Department of Homeland Security and agents of the Department of Defense also confiscated over \$600,000 in funds which DJULIARSO and others had transferred to the United States to pay for the first shipment of defense equipment.

U.S. Attorney Murphy reported that all four of the defendants charged by his office in this case have been convicted and sentenced.

On May 3, 2007, co-defendant IBRAHIM BIN AMRAN, age 46, of Singapore, was sentenced to a term of 48 months' imprisonment.

On April 26, 2007, co-defendant IGNATIUS FERDINANDUS SOEHARLI, age 50, of



Indonesia, was sentenced to a term of 36 months' imprisonment.

In December of 2006, co-defendant DAVID BEECROFT , age 44, of the United Kingdom, was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment. Upon his release from prison, BEECROFT was immediately deported from the United States. Defendants BIN AMRAN and SOEHARLI will also be deported from the United States after they have served their terms in prison.

The Arms Export Control Act and other provisions of U.S. law impose controls on the export of defense articles, munitions and military equipment.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Department of Defense, Criminal Investigative Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bruce Judge and Julie Beck.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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May 14, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Jerry Blewett**

**DETROIT MAN SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR  
TWO SOUTHFIELD BANK ROBBERIES**

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A 41-year-old Detroit man who robbed two LaSalle Bank branches in Southfield in October 2006 was sentenced to 165 months imprisonment in federal court today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was FBI Special Agent-In-Charge Andrew G. Arena.

Jerry Blewett pled guilty to two counts of bank robbery before United States District Judge David M. Lawson on January 5, 2007. Blewett admitted that he stole more than \$5,000 from the following banks:

October 24, 2006 – LaSalle Bank, 29630 Southfield Rd., Southfield, Michigan – \$1,770

October 27, 2006 – LaSalle Bank, 24660 Southfield Rd., Southfield, Michigan – \$3,660

In each robbery, Blewett entered the bank and presented a demand note to the teller stating, "This is a hold up. Put all of your \$100s and \$50s on the counter now!!!" Blewett was

caught by Southfield Police Department officers fleeing the scene of the second robbery.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Anyone contemplating a bank heist should take heed: the money is not great and the chances of being caught and getting a long prison sentence are tremendous. I applaud the outstanding cooperation between local and federal authorities which made this a short-lived crime spree."

Blewett was previously convicted of bank robbery in a federal district court in Minneapolis in October 1996 and again in December 2000. After serving 46 months imprisonment in a federal corrections institute in Wisconsin on the 2000 conviction, he was transferred to the Genesis House in Detroit. He was released on September 15, 2006 and was free for less than six weeks before robbing the LaSalle Bank branches.

Blewett is scheduled to appear before Judge Gerald E. Rosen on May 25, 2007 for a supervised release hearing in which he could face an additional two years imprisonment.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.



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May 15, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Bruce Lee Perfect**

**MAN SENTENCED FOR MANUFACTURING A PIPE BOMB**

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A Detroit resident who manufactured two destructive devices was sentenced today to 27 months imprisonment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

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

Bruce Lee Perfect, 31, of Detroit, was sentenced by United States District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds.

Perfect pleaded guilty on October 26, 2006 to one count of Manufacture of Unregistered Destructive Device. The criminal charges arose following Perfect's arrest on June 7, 2006 by ATF agents after he manufactured two destructive devices.

At the time of his plea, Perfect admitted that he manufactured two destructive devices, commonly referred to as "pipe bombs", which were constructed from an empty section of metal

pipe containing gunpowder, with two metal end caps that were side primed with a length of cannon fuse. Perfect did not register the "pipe bombs" in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record as required by law.

U.S. Attorney Murphy said, "There is no law-abiding reason why someone should engage in manufacturing explosive devices. The process of manufacture, let alone the possession and use, of such devices is a danger to the community. Today's sentence is an appropriate penalty for this serious crime."

SAC Goddard said, "In this day and age ATF is committed to the prevention, detection and response to explosive crimes. There is no legitimate reason to manufacture or possess a pipe bomb and this sentence will hopefully deter others from manufacturing these extremely dangerous devices."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan Gillooly.



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May 15, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Elfat El Aouar**

**LASHISH FINANCIAL MANAGER SENTENCED  
TO 18 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR TAX EVASION**

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United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that Elfat El Aouar, 40, of Plymouth, a former Vice President of Finance for La Shish, Inc. and the spouse of La Shish owner, Talal Chahine, was sentenced today in Ann Arbor federal court to 18 months' imprisonment for tax evasion. During her guilty plea hearing on December 12, 2006, Elfat El Aouar admitted that from January 1, 2003 to April 15, 2004, she aided and abetted Talal Chahine in evading approximately \$1.5 million dollars in federal income taxes. The sentence was handed down by United States District Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "This case involves a restaurant business that operated two sets of digital books, skimmed millions of dollars in cash to send overseas, and

failed to report this income on tax returns as required by law. As this Office has always done, we will assiduously enforce our tax laws with full resort to civil and criminal processes as appropriate. I commend the efforts of the prosecution team who worked closely with IRS Criminal Investigative agents in this case."

Greed undermines the integrity of our tax system," stated Aouate, "especially when the people responsible go to great lengths to deliberately hide their income by keeping a double set of computerized books, fictional records, and false balance reports."

According to the Indictment, Talal Khalil Chahine is the sole owner of La Shish, Inc., a Middle Eastern restaurant chain located in the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area. Elfat El Aouar, who is married to Talal Chahine, has an M.B.A. and had worked at La Shish, Inc. in various capacities including as the company's Vice President of Finance. The Indictment alleges that Talal Chahine and Elfat El Aouar collaborated in a scheme to skim cash proceeds from the restaurants for the tax years 2000 through 2003. During those tax years, La Shish, Inc. maintained a double set of computerized books, records and balance reports, one actual and one altered. The altered records were produced by a complex computer program that artificially reduced the amount of receipts in the form of cash that was actually received by the restaurants. Talal Chahine and Elfat El Aouar oversaw the maintenance of the double set of books, as well as the skimming and concealment of more than \$16,000,000 in cash received by the restaurants. To evade government scrutiny, the skimmed cash was not deposited into U.S. bank accounts, but instead converted into cashier's checks for the purpose of transporting the cash outside the United States to Lebanon, away from U.S. government reach and detection. Cash was also skimmed by paying La Shish, Inc. employees all or partly in cash.

Talal Chahine remains a fugitive from U.S. authorities and is believed to be in Lebanon. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

In announcing the sentence, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of El Aouar and Chahine has been handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Kenneth R. Chadwell and Julie A. Beck.



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May 15, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Verdict**

**Defendant: Safi Sobh**

**JURY CONVICTS SAFI SOBH, ACQUITS AMED SHAMI  
OF CONSPIRACY AND BANK FRAUD**

---

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that Safi Sobh, 34, of Dearborn, Michigan, was found guilty today of conspiring to commit bank fraud by submitting false documents in support of mortgage loan applications, and of aiding and abetting bank fraud. Co-defendant Amed Shami, 25, of Dearborn, was acquitted of the same charges.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew Arena, of the Detroit Division.

The jury deliberated for about five hours before returning the verdicts, concluding a three-week trial before United States District Patrick J. Duggan.

The evidence presented during the trial showed between July 2002 and December 2005, Safi Sobh was the leader of a conspiracy that successfully corrupted the system of checks and balances that lending institutions rely upon to determine how much money they



can safely lend on a property, and whether a particular borrower is likely to repay the loan. Ohio Savings Bank, Standard Federal Bank, and several other federally insured financial institutions relied upon the false representations of the conspirators and loaned millions of dollars, most of which has not been recovered. Working out of his realty, The Success Group, Safi Sobh hand-picked and taught his co-conspirators how to commit these crimes. The eight co-conspirators who were also indicted and who pleaded guilty included corrupt loan originators, processors, appraisers, and straw buyers. Amed Shami was acquitted of being a straw buyer on two of approximately 30 properties.

Aiding and abetting bank fraud carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in custody and a \$1,000,000 fine; conspiracy carries a maximum of 5 years in custody and a \$250,000 fine.

Safi Sobh's sentencing has not been scheduled.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "The mortgage lending process depends on the honesty of brokers, appraisers, and real estate agencies. When this process is corrupted by a team of fraudsters, as it was in this case, the result will be a federal prosecution. I salute the hard work of the FBI and the prosecutors who handled this complex fraud trial."

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Cynthia Oberg and Julie Beck.



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May 16, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Scott Edward Ashley**

**CANTON MAN SENTENCED FOR MORTGAGE FRAUD**

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A Canton resident was sentenced today to 56 months imprisonment for charges related to the fraudulent procurement of \$3.8 million in mortgage and other loan proceeds and the fraudulent use of false social security numbers in filing multiple bankruptcy petitions, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by John Keenan, the Detroit Resident Agent in Charge of the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General.

Scott Edward Ashley, aged 40, was sentenced by United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen.

Ashley pled guilty in the midst of a November 2006 jury trial in which he was charged with defrauding Comerica, Wells Fargo, and Huntington banks in applications for loans totaling \$3.8 million. It was further charged that, in addition to providing false information on his loan applications, Ashley supplied the banks with bogus federal tax records that falsely indicated

that he was earning over \$1 million a year. Actually, according to the indictment, Ashley was receiving Social Security disability benefits and, with his spouse, had joint annual income of less than \$25,000. It was further charged that Ashley's fraud caused the banks to ultimately lose over \$1.5 million. It was also charged that Ashley utilized false social security numbers not only in his loan applications, but in nine bankruptcy petitions Ashley filed between 1997 and 2006.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Today's sentence should discourage future flim-flam artists from trying to make an easy buck by falsifying loan applications and bankruptcy court petitions. I applaud the hard work of the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, as well as the trial team from my office for aggressively pursuing this case."

Ashley pleaded guilty after one full day of trial, by entering guilty pleas to three counts of bank fraud and four counts of social security number fraud. There was no plea bargain.

In addition to the sentence of imprisonment, Judge Rosen ordered Ashley to pay \$1,664,580 in restitution

The investigation of this case was conducted by the Office of Inspector General of the Social Security Administration. The case has been prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Burakoff.



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May 16, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Scott Valla,**

**FORMER "TOYS R US" EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT  
AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

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A 35-year-old Marine City man, who possessed over 450 images and over 90 movies of child pornography pleaded guilty in federal court today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Detroit.

Scott Valla, a former employee of a Toys R Us pleaded guilty to one felony count of receipt of child pornography and one felony count of possession of child pornography before United States District Judge Marianne O. Battani. Valla admitted that he used America Online to receive and download over 450 child pornographic images and that he possessed VHS videotapes of child pornography. Valla retained all of the images and movies at his sports card shop, The Dugout, located in Marine City. Many of the children depicted in the images and movies are under 12 years-of-age.

United States Attorney Murphy stated, "Downloading and collecting child porn only fuels the already too active market for images depicting the sexual abuse and exploitation of

children all over the world. I will continue to make the vigorous prosecution of these crimes a top priority.”

Receipt of child pornography is punishable by a minimum mandatory sentence of 5 years' imprisonment and a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment as well as a fine of up to \$250,000 dollars. Possession of child pornography is punishable by a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000. The plea agreement entered with the court and signed by Valla calls for a term of imprisonment of 121-151 months.

A sentencing date has been set for August 16, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov)

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sarah Resnick Cohen.



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May 16, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Claudia R. Thompson**

**FORMER PRESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY  
TO MAKING FALSE ENTRIES IN LABOR UNION FINANCIAL RECORDS**

---

The former president of a local labor union pleaded guilty in federal court to making false entries in labor union financial records, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Entering the plea was Claudia R. Thompson, age 33, of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The evidence presented to the court at the time of the plea established that Thompson was the former president of PACE (now Steelworkers) Local 513, which represents employees of Ypsilanti-based Marsh Plating, Inc., and Finishing Systems, Inc. Thompson admitted that she falsified Local 513 financial records to conceal her embezzlement of more than \$26,000 from Local 513, during the period from June 2004 to August 2005.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "For a union official who is charged with the honest stewardship of the members' dues, embezzlement of this nature is alarming. My office remains committed to rooting out and prosecuting serious labor fraud whenever we find it."



Under the provisions of Section 209(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA) and Section 3571 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, willful falsification of labor union financial records can result in a fine of up to \$100,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards.





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May 16, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Terrance Baker**

**DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON**

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A 41-year-old Detroit man was sentenced today to 15 years in prison as a result of his guilty plea to charges of narcotics trafficking, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

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

Receiving the sentence before U.S. District Judge Bernard A. Friedman was Terrance Baker.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Given the dangers to our neighborhoods created by armed drug trafficking, today's 15-year prison sentence is a clear message to anyone thinking of getting involved with the dead-end of illegal narcotics trade: don't do it."

SAC Goddard said, "Illegal drugs and guns go hand-in-hand and are a threat to the safety of our citizens and to our law enforcement officers," said SAC Goddard. "Today's lengthy sentence highlights our effort to remove armed drug dealers from our streets. We are dedicated to reducing violent crime and this case highlights a repetitive problem of illegal narcotics traffickers willing to use and carry firearms to protect their drug proceeds," she added.

At his August 2006 guilty plea hearing, Baker admitted that on September 16, 2005, he possessed more than 121 grams of crack cocaine and more than 27 grams of cocaine, and three firearms and ammunition inside of a residence he maintained and operated in the city of Detroit. Specifically, a Izhmash 7.62 assault rifle, a Lorcin .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol, and a Starr .22 caliber pistol and ammunition. Because of the dangers involved in narcotics trafficking, Baker possessed the firearms to protect himself, his family and his drug business. The crack cocaine and cocaine were packaged in separate plastic bags and stored in a drawer inside of the defendant's bedroom. Baker admitted to possessing these controlled substances with the intent of distributing and/or selling them.

This case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Saima Mohsin.



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May 16, 2007

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Terry Crooks**

**SOUTHFIELD MAN INDICTED FOR ARSON  
FIRE AT CHEETAH'S STRIP CLUB**

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Terry Crooks, 24, of Southfield was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of maliciously damaging by fire, a building used in an activity affecting interstate commerce, specifically, Cheetah's On the Strip Gentlemen's Club, located at 19245 W. 8 Mile Road, Detroit, Michigan, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

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

The indictment charges that on or about March 3, 2005, Crooks intentionally set fire to the building, causing extensive damage to the interior of the business. According to the federal complaint filed in this matter, Crooks, an employee of the cleaning company which cleaned Cheetah's, entered the premises following business hours and traveled to the basement area, where the fire was started. Video surveillance tapes were recovered from the building following the fire. The complaint states that the video tapes depict the perpetrator entering the building through the rear doors, pouring a liquid on the floor in the basement area, and exiting the building as the flames engulfed the interior of the building.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "The risks of danger to the lives of people, as well as the losses to property that it causes, make arson a crime that we take very seriously. This is particularly true when the fire was set in a busy commercial area."

Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Michigan states that the evidence showed the fire was an act of arson. "The crime of arson is one of the most difficult types of cases to solve. Results of our joint investigation sends a message to the public that crimes of violence, such as this case of arson, are not tolerated," Goddard said.

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 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. If convicted, Crooks faces penalties of up to 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by special agents of the ATF. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Craig Weier and Susan Gillooly.



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May 16, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Claudia R. Thompson**

**FORMER PRESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY  
TO MAKING FALSE ENTRIES IN LABOR UNION FINANCIAL RECORDS**

---

The former president of a local labor union pleaded guilty in federal court to making false entries in labor union financial records, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Entering the plea was Claudia R. Thompson, age 33, of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The evidence presented to the court at the time of the plea established that Thompson was the former president of PACE (now Steelworkers) Local 513, which represents employees of Ypsilanti-based Marsh Plating, Inc., and Finishing Systems, Inc. Thompson admitted that she falsified Local 513 financial records to conceal her embezzlement of more than \$26,000 from Local 513, during the period from June 2004 to August 2005.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "For a union official who is charged with the honest stewardship of the members' dues, embezzlement of this nature is alarming. My office remains committed to rooting out and prosecuting serious labor fraud whenever we find it."

Under the provisions of Section 209(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA) and Section 3571 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, willful falsification of labor union financial records can result in a fine of up to \$100,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards.



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May 17, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Levence Mickle Quick**

**MT. CLEMENS MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT  
FOR SELLING CRACK COCAINE AND MARIJUANA WHILE ARMED**

---

A 38-year-old Mt. Clemens man who distributed large quantities of crack cocaine and marijuana was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Special Agent in Charge Valerie Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Levence Mickle Quick pled guilty on January 18, 2007 to four counts of possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and two firearms charges before United States District Judge Denise Page Hood. Defendant admitted to selling marijuana and crack cocaine on February 24, 2006 while armed with a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver. He also admitted to selling marijuana and crack cocaine on November 21, 2006 while armed with a High Standard 12-gauge shotgun. Defendant operated out of drug houses on Duchess and St. Clair streets in Detroit and on Clemens St. in Mt. Clemens.

After completing his sentence, Quick will be required to serve eight years of supervised

release.

United States Attorney Murphy Stephen J. Murphy said, "Armed drug trafficking is a ticket to a long stretch in prison or a fate that's even worse. Today's sentence is a stern warning to all drug dealers to get out of the business before it's too late. I congratulate the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for the successful prosecution of this case."

"Illegal drugs and guns go hand-in-hand and are a threat to the safety of our citizens and to our law enforcement officers," said SAC Goddard. "Today's lengthy sentence highlights our effort to remove armed drug dealers from our streets. We are dedicated to reducing violent crime and this case highlights a repetitive problem of illegal narcotics traffickers willing to use and carry firearms to protect their drug proceeds," she added.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.





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May 21, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Verdict**

**Defendant: Dr. Zack Brown**

**DETROIT DOCTOR AND BILLER CONVICTED  
OF \$ 775,000 HEALTH CARE FRAUD SCHEME**

---

A Detroit doctor and his biller were found guilty today by a federal court jury on 80-counts of health care fraud, mail fraud and conspiracy to commit both crimes, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

Dr. Zack Brown, 61, and Davell Culberson, 68, were found guilty of conspiring to submit more than 19,000 phony claims to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan ("BCBSM") in an effort to steal more than \$775,000 from the insurer.

The jury took just 55 minutes to deliberate before reaching its verdict, ending a nine-day trial.

"The jury saw through this scam in less than an hour of deliberation," Murphy said. "Unfortunately, when a doctor submits thousands of false claims to a health insurance company, it imposes terrible costs on the system, not only in paying fabricated medical bills for non-existent treatment, but also in dealing with the mess the scheme has left behind. Health

care fraud contributes to the growing problem of skyrocketing health costs that place an unfair burden on honest citizens and the companies they work for.”

U.S. District Judge Marianne Battani revoked Dr. Brown’s bond after he was found guilty on all 80 counts, and ordered him to be held in custody. The Court noted that Brown, who has two prior felony convictions, was “a danger to the community” in light of the dozens of individuals he recruited into the scheme. Culberson, the other defendant, was allowed to remain on bond.

Sentencing for both defendants was set for 2 p.m. September 6, 2007. Brown and Culberson face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison on the mail fraud counts. During the government’s oral motion to revoke Brown’s bond, AUSA James Mitzelfeld said the government believed Brown was a possible flight risk because he faces a possible 15 years in prison under federal sentencing guidelines.

The convictions of Brown and Culberson followed a joint FBI, U.S. Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General (“HHS-OIG”) and BCBSM fraud investigation that has thus far resulted in the convictions of 12 co-defendants and pre-trial diversion and restitution agreements with more than 29 other co-conspirators.

Monday’s verdicts cap a seven-year investigation, which remains ongoing, that has resulted in more than 43 individuals being brought to justice who participated in the scheme.

“My office takes this seriously and will work diligently to prosecute all those involved in such schemes. It’s an extra cost of doing business this state can ill afford,” Murphy added.

The evidence at trial showed the scheme, master-minded by Zack Brown, cost BCBSM more than \$400,000 in losses and a likely greater amount of losses to Medicare. Jurors heard evidence that Brown ordered Culberson to submit phony claims for physical therapy and injections that 26 phony patients never received.

Brown and a group of eight recruiters convinced BCBSM subscribers that if they could use their BCBSM cards, they would get to keep half of more than 500 checks, which averaged

\$3,000 to \$8,000.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge, Lamont Pugh III, Special Agent in Charge, HHS-OIG, and Gregory W. Anderson, Vice President, Corporate and Financial Investigations, BCBSM.

“The jury convictions of Zack Brown, M.D., and his biller Davell Culberson are gratifying to BCBSM and its customers,” BCBSM’s Anderson said. “These individuals were responsible for submitting over \$1 million in false claims. This is money that could have been used to help provide coverage to those who are not in a position to afford quality health care.”

Thus far, BCBSM has recovered more than \$40,000 in restitution payments from the co-conspirators.

The evidence at trial showed Brown and his recruiters told BCBSM subscribers they could share in up to half of the amount the doctor falsely billed in their name if they would cash the checks they received from BCBSM and split the money with the doctor. Brown was not able to directly bill BCBSM because of questionable billing in the past. Once these "phony patients" signed up, Brown paid Culberson \$300 a day in cash to submit claims for anywhere from 100 to 4,700 phony physical therapy services for each patient during the previous year, generating checks from BCBSM of between \$2,000 and \$13,000 to the "phony patients" who then split the money with Brown.

Recruiters received from \$100 to \$300 each time they brought Brown cash from BCBSM subscribers they recruited. Most of those recruited to participate never met Brown and received no services. Two "phony patients" received checks totaling more than \$59,000 and were allowed to keep about half that amount. Many of the BCBSM checks were co-signed by recruiters or Brown and cashed at two or three party stores near Brown's office.

The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorneys James Mitzelfeld and Stephen L. Hiyama.

BCBSM urges anyone who is aware of health care fraud to call its toll free anti-fraud

hotline at 1-800-482-3787.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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May 21, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Verdict**

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May 22, 2007

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Gary Wetmore**

**BELLEVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY  
AND BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

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A 45-year-old Belleville man, who possessed over 10,000 images and movie files of child pornography pleaded guilty in federal court today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detroit Division.

Gary Wetmore pleaded guilty to one felony count of receipt of child pornography and one felony count of being a felon in possession of firearms before United States District Judge David M. Lawson.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that Wetmore, who had been previously convicted on child pornography charges as well as criminal sexual conduct in the first degree, used a credit card to purchase access to child pornography websites. During a search of the defendant's residence, agents seized four computers and

several storage media which contained tens of thousands of images and movie files of child pornography. The images that Wetmore possessed included minors, under the age of 12, engaged in sexually explicit conduct and images that depict the children subjected to sadistic, masochistic and other violent acts. Also found during the search were three firearms.

“This defendant’s collection included the possession of tens of thousands of images, making this defendant one of the most prolific collectors of child pornography that we’ve seen in this district,” U.S. Attorney Murphy stated. “Federal laws that target the child pornography trade exist to eliminate the victimization of children all over the world because those who collect and possess child pornography create the demand which fuels the marketplace for this insidious practice. We will prosecute these crimes vigorously.”

The plea agreement entered with the court and signed by Wetmore calls for a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years up to 40 years.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov)

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Saima Mohsin.



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May 22, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Jonathan Fend**

**DAVISON MAN SENTENCED FOR ON-LINE  
EXPLOITATION OF NORTH CAROLINA TEENS**

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Jonathan Fend, 21 formerly of Detroit, Michigan was sentenced in Federal District Court yesterday for his conviction of one count of receipt of child pornography, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Fend pleaded guilty on February 1, 2007 and was sentenced by the Honorable Bernard Friedman to 60 months in federal prison to be followed by two years of supervised release.

Fend was identified in an FBI investigation in 2005 when it was discovered that a 13 year old girl in North Carolina was communicating on line with Fend, believing him to be a "hit man". The girl, who had "met" Fend through a My-Space account, was sending messages indicating that she wanted her parents killed. Fend replied, claiming that he would be willing to do so. Fend sent images of himself posing with firearms and discussed his plans on numerous occasions with the girl through YaHoo! Instant Messenger. Fend also established an on-line "romantic" relationship with the girl, as well as two other 13 year olds in North Carolina. All three of the girls knew each other.

Subsequent investigation by the FBI confirmed that Fend's willingness to act as a "hit-man" was fictitious. However, during his chats with the three girls, he was successful in having two of them send unclothed pictures of themselves to him, believing that he was their "boyfriend".

During the execution of a search warrant at Fend's then home in Detroit, the FBI seized a computer, web camera, weapons and found the child pornographic images that had been sent to Fend, on his computer. There was no evidence that Fend ever re-distributed the pictures.

United States Attorney Stephen Murphy said, "Mr. Fend's encouragement of a troubled young girl in her desire to harm her family, and opportunistic exploitation of the girl and her two friends, cannot be tolerated by society. Through his psychological manipulation of the emotions of these young teens, Fend secured access to child pornographic images.

The perpetuation of the Internet's child pornography industry depends on situations like this, where the sexual exploitation of children is captured in digital photos by the perpetrator. Fortunately, this case was solved before these images ever found their way to this on-line marketplace."

Murphy added, "This case is a good example of the threat to our children posed by the Internet. Always be aware of who your children are exchanging emails with."

Murphy praised the work of the special agents of the FBI, and Detective Debbie MacKenzie from North Carolina, of the Asheboro Police Department whose dedication to the victims and the time and skill necessary to bring this child exploitation case to conclusion was exemplary.

Assistant United States Attorney John O'Brien, prosecuted case for the United States. Matthew Schneider.



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May 22, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: James Earl Sherwood**

**MIO RESIDENT SENTENCED ON ARSON CHARGES**

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James Earl Sherwood, age 36 of Mio, Michigan, was sentenced today in federal court for his multiple convictions for arson in the Huron-Manistee National Forest, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

United States District Judge David M. Lawson sentenced Sherwood to 37 months in custody, followed by three years of supervised release and ordered Sherwood to pay restitution in the amount of \$418,475.00 to the United States Forest Service. One of the conditions of the defendant's supervised release term, which will follow the custodial portion of his sentence, is that the defendant may not enter into the National Forest without prior approval of the court or the United States Probation Department.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Protecting our National Forests, particularly from the danger of arson, is important not only because of the need to preserve our resources, but to protect human lives. I applaud the excellent local, state and federal cooperation which lead to this successful prosecution."

Sherwood pleaded guilty on May 2, 2006 to three counts of arson in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. The information presented to the court at the time of the plea established that on various dates in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, Mr. Sherwood set fires in the Huron-Manistee National Forest, creating both a risk of death or serious injury to others, and causing damages and loss. As part of his plea, Sherwood admitted to making delayed ignition devices and using the devices to start fires in the forest.

Before imposing sentence, Judge Lawson expressed puzzlement over the defendant's apparent love/hate relationship with the forest. Judge Lawson also noted that it was only by luck that no one was killed as a result of the 40 plus fires started by the defendant. The court also noted that the restitution represents only the cost of fire suppression incurred by the Forest Service and not the private property damage resulting from the fires started by the defendant.

The case was investigated by a task force consisting of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Oscoda and Alcona County Sheriff's Departments, the Michigan State Police and the U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Division. Anyone with information regarding fore



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May 23, 2007

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Christopher Aaron**

**ORTONVILLE MAN INDICTED FOR USING FALSE  
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS TO AVOID REPORTING  
CASINO WINNINGS OF OVER \$3 MILLION**

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Christopher Aaron, age 47, of Ortonville, Michigan, was arraigned today in federal court in Detroit, Michigan on an Indictment charging him with twenty-two counts of obstructing the administration of the Internal Revenue laws, signing false IRS forms under penalty of perjury, and causing casinos to file false reports, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

The 22-count indictment charges that between January 2000 and December 2003, Aaron provided false Social Security numbers to various casinos, so that gambling winnings reported to the Internal Revenue Service would not be reported under his true Social Security number. This in turn caused the casinos to file false forms with the Internal Revenue Service, which reflected amounts won by the defendant but which contained a false Social Security number.

The defendant also signed IRS forms, under penalty of perjury, in which he provided

false Social Security numbers to the IRS in connection with his gambling winnings. The defendant then filed false federal income tax returns, indicating far less gambling income than he actually received.

The total gross winnings reported under the false Social Security numbers was over \$3 million. Due to the defendant's actions, it was impossible for the Internal Revenue Service to accurately determine his net income (or loss) due to gambling.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "To be fair, our government's tax system requires honest and voluntary reporting of all citizens. Obviously, reporting gambling winnings under false Social Security numbers is counter to this obligation, and will result in charges such as those that were filed today."

The defendant faces a maximum term of imprisonment of three years on Counts One through Eighteen, and a maximum term of up to five years on Counts Nineteen through Twenty-Two of the Indictment. The actual sentence imposed if convicted would depend on a number of factors, including the defendant's criminal record (if any), and advisory Sentencing Guidelines.

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 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne F. Pratt.





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May 24, 2007

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Dorian Merriewether**

### **FORMER WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY INDICTED**

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A former Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy, Dorian Merriewether, 36 of Farmington Hills, Michigan was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of extortion, conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana, and use of a telephone in furtherance of a controlled substance offense, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans, whose agency played a central collaborative role in the investigation.

The 8-count indictment charges that between 2004 and August 2005, Merriewether used his position as a Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy to transport controlled substances, cellular telephones and alcohol to individuals detained in the Wayne County Jail. The indictment also charges Merriewether with several counts of distributing and conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "A deputy Sheriff who is sworn to uphold the law cannot be permitted to violate that law, as today's Indictment charges. My office will vigorously investigate and pursue such allegations of police corruption."

SAC Arena said, "Police corruption matters are a priority of the FBI and we will continue to aggressively investigate those cases where public officials have betrayed the trust of the citizens which they have the responsibility to protect."

Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans said, ""This type of activity will not be tolerated in this department. We will continue to actively and aggressively ferret out illegal activity wherever it exists."

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 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI as well as the internal affairs department of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office.



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May 24, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Donny G. Douglas et al**

**TWO FORMER UNION OFFICIALS SENTENCED TODAY ON CHARGES  
OF CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE THE TAFT-HARTLEY ACT  
AND CONSPIRACY TO EXTORT UNDER THE HOBBS ACT**

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Two top former union officers from southeastern Michigan were sentenced to terms of probation on charges of conspiracy to demand from General Motors Corporation (GM), the authority to amend the terms of the national labor agreement between GM and the United Auto Workers (UAW) when they were not authorized to do so; and in conjunction with that, conspiracy to extort from GM, skilled trades positions of employment for two specified non-GM and non-UAW individuals whom the union officers knew were not qualified or entitled to those positions, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, of the Detroit Division, and James Vanderberg, Special Agent in Charge, United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations.

Sentenced today by United States District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds were:

Donny G. Douglas, 65, of Holly, Michigan, on both counts, to two years probation with six months home confinement on electronic tethering, in addition to 100 hours of community service, and a \$4,000 fine. At the time of the offenses, Douglas was employed as a UAW International Servicing Representative.

Jay D. Campbell, 65, of Davisburg, Michigan, on both counts, to two years probation with six months home confinement on electronic tethering, in addition to 100 hours of community service, and a \$4,000 fine. At the time of the offenses, Campbell was employed as the Chairman of the Shop Committee and chief negotiator for UAW Local 594.

Douglas and Campbell were found guilty on June 27, 2006, after a jury trial, of the offenses of conspiracy to violate the Taft-Hartley Act, and conspiracy to extort under the Hobbs Act.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Abusive and extortionate practices increase the costs of doing business for our local employers and undermine the confidence in the integrity of our community's essential commercial activity. Any criminal extortion activity like this, which we consider to be serious and abusive of voluntary participation in the marketplace, will be pursued with vigor, as it was in this case."

The evidence presented at trial showed that between approximately August 1995 and August 1997, Douglas and Campbell, using their union positions, conspired to demand from GM the hiring of Campbell's son and another individual, who was the son of a former union official, into skilled trades positions, when Douglas and Campbell knew those two individuals were not qualified for those positions and when such hiring was in violation of the normal hiring process that existed in the union contract with GM. Furthermore, these demands by Douglas and Campbell threatened to delay or prevent the settlement of various negotiations that occurred between Local 594 and GM during those three years, culminating with the threat to prolong an 87-day strike that occurred in 1997. As a result of these illegal demands by Douglas and Campbell, the two individuals were hired by GM into skilled trades positions so as to avert the continuation of the 1997 strike.

Murphy commended the work of Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey W. Dancer of the

United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and Special Agent David B. Rogers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Wuczyna and Trial Attorney Vincent J. Falvo, Jr., from the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, Labor Management Unit in Washington, D.C.



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May 25, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Shawn Walker**

**DETROIT MAN SENTENCED FOR INTERSTATE  
TRAVEL IN AID OF RACKETEERING**

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A Detroit resident was sentenced today to 31 months' imprisonment for charges related to interstate travel in aid of racketeering, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Shawn Walker, aged 34, of Port Huron, Michigan, was sentenced by United States District Judge Avern Cohn.

Walker pled guilty to one count of interstate travel in aid of racketeering in connection with a trip he and three others took to Tucson, Arizona from Detroit, Michigan. In October 2002, Walker traveled to Arizona to assault a drug dealing associate who Walker believed had stolen \$500,000 from an illegal drug dealing organization in Detroit. Once in Arizona, Walker assaulted the associate by stabbing him with screwdrivers and throwing him in the trunk of a car.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "We will vigorously pursue those who commit acts of violence in furtherance of their illegal drug trafficking. Today's sentence should send a message that drug dealers operating in our district will be held responsible for such acts, where ever they occur."

Walker pleaded guilty on July 21, 2006. There was no plea bargain.

The investigation of this case was conducted by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.



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May 29, 2007

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Kenneth E. Yaroch**

**BAD AXE RESIDENT INDICTED FOR BANK FRAUD**

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Kenneth E. Yaroch, 53, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Bay City, Michigan, on May 9, 2007 on 18 counts of bank fraud, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Yaroch was arrested today in Bad Axe, Michigan. The indictment had been under seal until today's arrest.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge, and Nancy Grinnell, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The 18-count indictment charges that on various dates in 2004 and 2005, Yaroch committed bank fraud in connection with his employment at Signature Bank, Bad Axe, Michigan. The indictment alleges that Yaroch, who was a loan officer for the bank and who dealt extensively in lending activities associated with agricultural and business credit, as well as consumer loans, personally approved a series of loans to individuals and couples based on loan applications and other documents Yaroch prepared for such lenders. In each instance, the indictment alleges, Yaroch placed false information on the loan application and other paperwork, incorrectly stating that, for example, the borrower was seeking funds in order to go



into the construction business, when in fact the borrower was seeking the loan for something totally different. A number of the loans were defaulted on and had to be written off as uncollectible by Signature Bank.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "The integrity of the financial services industry depends upon the honesty and trustworthiness of those loan officers and other employees who are entrusted to work in this important field. Today's charges underscore the seriousness with which my office, the FBI and the FDIC view allegations of internal fraud perpetrated by bank officers and other financial services employees."

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 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI and FDIC. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James A. Brunson.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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May 30, 2007

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**EVENT: Superseding Indictment**

**Defendant: Talal Chahine**

**SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT RETURNED AGAINST LA SHISH OWNER**

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United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that a federal grand jury returned a superseding Indictment against La Shish owner, Talal Chahine, 55, formerly of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, adding an additional count of Income Tax Evasion.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Today's charges illustrate our commitment to leave no stone unturned in this serious case."

"IRS continues to unravel the extent of this multi-million dollar evasion scheme, even while Chahine remains a fugitive from justice," said Aouate. "Just remember, IRS has a long memory when it comes to people who defy the tax laws."

As set forth in the First Superseding Indictment, Talal Khalil Chahine is the sole owner of La Shish, Inc., a Middle Eastern restaurant chain located in the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area. The Indictment alleges that Talal Chahine conceived and executed a scheme to skim cash proceeds from the restaurants for the tax years 2000 through 2004. During those tax years, La Shish, Inc. maintained a double set of computerized books, records and balance reports, one actual and one altered. The altered records were produced by a complex computer program that artificially reduced the amount of receipts in the form of cash that was actually received by the restaurants. Talal Chahine oversaw the maintenance of the double set of books, as well as the skimming and concealment of more than \$20,000,000 in cash received by the restaurants. To evade government scrutiny, the skimmed cash was not deposited into U.S. bank accounts, but instead, at the direction of Chahine, converted into cashier's checks made out to persons located in Lebanon and reduced in physical size by changing small denomination notes into larger denomination notes. These conversions were made for the purpose of transporting the cash outside the United States to Lebanon, away from U.S. government reach and detection. Cash was also skimmed by paying La Shish, Inc. employees all or partly in cash.

Talal Chahine remains a fugitive from U.S. authorities and is believed to be in Lebanon. A warrant has been issued for his arrest. His wife, Elfat El Aouar, pleaded guilty to aiding and assisting Chahine in his tax evasion scheme in December 2006, and was sentenced on May 15, 2007 to 18 months' imprisonment.

Chahine faces a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on each of the five counts in the First Superseding Indictment. A copy of the First Superseding Indictment is attached. 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 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

In announcing the Indictment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of Talal Chahine is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Kenneth R. Chadwell and Julie A. Beck.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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May 30, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Mario Antonio Mendez**

**CANADIAN CITIZEN SENTENCED ON ECSTASY CHARGES**

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A Canadian citizen was sentenced today in federal court in Detroit for possessing nearly 79,000 ecstasy pills, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Receiving the sentence was Mario Antonio Mendez, 39, of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen sentenced Mendez to 87 months in custody, followed by two years of supervised release.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "The harmful effects of Ecstasy are particularly profound, so today's sentence for bringing almost 80,000 pills into the US should be a strong deterrent to such dangerous drug trafficking."

Mendez pleaded guilty to the offense in February of this year. The information presented to the court at the time of the plea established that on March 22, 2006, while

attempting to enter the United States from Canada through the Detroit/Windsor tunnel, Mendez had roughly 78,971 pills of ecstasy concealed in the rear door panels of his vehicle. The pills were destined for delivery and further distribution within the Detroit metropolitan area and had an estimated street value in excess of \$1 million.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carl Gilmer-Hill.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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May 31, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Darryl Jason Emerson**

**FORMER BAIL BONDSMAN SENTENCED  
FOR IMPERSONATING AN FBI AGENT**

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Darryl Jason Emerson, a former bail bondsman, was sentenced today to 3 months' home confinement followed by three years' probation for impersonating a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Emerson's sentence follows his November 21, 2006 guilty plea. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

United States District Judge Denise Page Hood also ordered Emerson to participate in an anger management course and not seek employment in the law enforcement or security field without the permission of the U.S. Probation Department.

According to a criminal complaint filed by the FBI, Emerson entered a Detroit nightclub in February 2006 and approached a female. Emerson identified himself as an FBI agent and demanded that the victim follow him to the door because he had a warrant for her arrest.

Emerson told the victim that if she did not come willingly, he would put her in handcuffs and drag her out of the bar. A bystander called 911, while the victim followed Emerson to the door of the nightclub. Detroit Police Department officers arrived, arrested Emerson, and searched him. Emerson had a .40 caliber Glock pistol, a black holster, a can of pepper spray, body armor, handcuffs, a "Fugitive Recovery Agent" badge, a Michigan Concealed Pistol License and a "United States Fugitive Service" identification card.

Emerson has never been an FBI agent or any other sworn law enforcement officer. Under Michigan and federal law, Emerson is prohibited from possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony.

U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Impersonating a federal agent is a serious offense because it carries the potential for abuse of a perceived position of lawful authority. The public must be able to rely on the representation that a person is a federal agent. Because federal agents are trained to present their credentials when they identify themselves in an official capacity, a citizen should never be in doubt concerning such a representation."

The case was investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Schneider.



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May 31, 2007

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Joseph and Evelyn Djoumessi**

**HUSBAND AND WIFE SENTENCED  
TO 17 YEARS AND 5 YEARS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES**

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Two Cameroonian nationals, permanent resident aliens, were sentenced late yesterday as a result of their convictions for conspiracy to commit involuntary servitude with regard to their forcing a young girl from Cameroon to perform child care and domestic chores through the use of threats and beatings, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Detroit.

United States District Judge Arthur Tarnow sentenced Joseph to 204 months of imprisonment and his wife Evelyn Djoumessi to 60 months of imprisonment for their roles in the offense of conspiracy to commit involuntary servitude. The judge also ordered the defendants to pay restitution to the victim in the amount of \$100,000.00. Additionally, Joseph Djoumessi, who was also convicted of Involuntary Servitude and Harboring an Illegal Alien for Financial Gain, received a special assessment of \$300.00 and Evelyn Djoumessi received a special assessment of special assessment of \$100.00. Both Joseph and Evelyn Djoumessi



received supervised release conditions to be in effect upon their release from imprisonment.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Today's sentence gives fair warning to all human traffickers and any others who would ever seek to force an innocent teenager to become the equivalent of a personal slave: you will pay a steep price for your crime. This Office will continue to pursue and aggressively prosecute such heinous offenses."

Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations said, "It is a basic and fundamental human right to be free, and no child should ever be forced to live in a world of fear and involuntary servitude. Today's sentences are a testament to our solemn commitment to protect those who cannot protect themselves. While we cannot restore someone's childhood, we can bring their abusers to justice."

In March 2006, a jury convicted defendant Evelyn Djoumessi and a judge convicted defendant Joseph Djoumessi, after the government presented evidence that between October 1996 and February, 2000, the defendants forced the Cameroonian girl, whom they had brought to this country illegally, to work against her will as a domestic servant in the Djoumessi home. Defendant Evelyn Djoumessi forced the girl to take care of the defendant's children and perform household chores without pay, and beat her with a belt, a spoon, and a shoe in order to force her to comply with these demands. The judge found that Defendant Joseph Djoumessi sexually abused the victim, in addition to forcing her to work as a domestic servant.

The case was investigated by agents of the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and was prosecuted by attorneys from the Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan.