



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois
Western Division*

*John G. McKenzie
Assistant U.S. Attorney*

*308 West State Street - Room 300
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

June 23, 2006

NAPERVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PAYING A KICKBACK IN CONNECTION WITH UNION PENSION AND HEALTH AND WELFARE PLANS

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, GORDON S. HEDDELL, Inspector General of the United States Department of Labor, JAMES VANDERBERG, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Region of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and KENNETH M. BAZAR, Regional Director of the Chicago Regional Office of the United States Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, today made the following announcement:

MICHAEL J. BRDECKA, 61, (DOB: 12/21/1944), of Naperville, pleaded guilty today in federal court in Rockford to giving a \$9,700 kickback to Michael G. Linder because of Linder's duties concerning two union local pension plans and two union local health and welfare plans. The union local pension plans included the pension plan of the Ironworkers Local 498 located in Rockford, Illinois.

Brdecka was indicted in Rockford on July 19, 2005. His jury trial was set to commence on Monday, June 26, 2006. In his plea agreement, Brdecka admitted to paying a kickback of \$9,700 to Linder. According to his plea agreement, Linder was the president of Joseph/Anthony and Associates, Inc., formerly a third-party administrator of the pension plans of the Ironworkers Local 498 located in Rockford and of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 218(S) located in Springfield, and of the health and welfare plans of Machinery Movers Local 136 located in River Grove and of the Ironworkers Local 465 located in Kankakee. Brdecka admitting to paying the \$9,700 because of Linder's actions and decisions concerning those pension and health and welfare plans, including Linder assisting the plans in selecting investment advisors and investment services.

Linder previously pleaded guilty to providing a motorcycle to Thomas F. Kisting, the former business agent of Ironworkers 498 in Rockford and plan administrator for its pension funds, and to providing a motorcycle to Fred Schreier, the president of Machinery Movers Local 136 and one of the trustees of its benefit plans. Linder is set to be sentenced on July 28, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard set sentencing of Brdecka for November 17, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. The charge carries a maximum penalty of up to 3 years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the federal Sentencing Guidelines and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Brdecka will not be eligible for parole.

The case was investigated by the Chicago offices of the Department of Labor, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and the Employee Benefits Security Administration. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. McKENZIE.

#