



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Maryland  
Northern Division*

*Allen F. Loucks  
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc  
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse  
101 West Lombard Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800  
TTY/TDD:410-962-4462  
410-209-4885  
FAX 410-962-3091  
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

**JANUARY 5, 2005  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT  
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA  
(410) 209-4885**

**BALTIMORE MAN SENTENCED TO 27 MONTHS FOR eBay SCAM**

**BALTIMORE**, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today United States District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Jacob Theodore George IV, age 23, of Baltimore, Maryland to 27 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to wire fraud. Judge Blake also ordered George to pay \$16,216 in restitution.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court at George's guilty plea on September 7, 2004, between about March 29, 2001 and December 2003, George and several accomplices engaged in a scheme of fraudulent eBay sales over the Internet. George offered for sale and solicited bids over the Internet for different consumer products, but primarily computers. However, George and his accomplices did not intend to provide these items which they had listed for sale to the purchasers. Using the name/address "bestbuyguymd@aol.com," among others, George would post on eBay an offer to sell an item, usually with a picture corresponding to the product. A successful bidder would then remit the price of the item either through online banking or by sending a money order or Western Union check to George. George would accept payment for

the items but never ship the product to the purchaser.

According to the agreed statement of facts, during this Internet fraud scheme, at least 20 individuals sent money orders or checks, or wire transferred money to George and his accomplices for items they were allegedly buying. Additionally, at least 13 other prospective buyers were informed by George and his accomplices that they were the successful bidders for eBay sale items and were told to remit money to George and his accomplices in order to receive the products that George neither had nor intended to send to the purchaser. None of these 13 prospective buyers remitted any money to George and his accomplices.

The case is the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Maryland State Police and the Baltimore County Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael Cunningham.