



PRESS RELEASE

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INSURANCE EMBEZZLERS PLEAD GUILTY TO THEFT AND TAX CHARGES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's

Office for the District of Arizona announced today that MICHAEL FRANCIS BOOS, 53, of Glendale, Arizona, and RONALD LEE TURNER, 44, of Phoenix, Arizona, have each pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Morton Sitver, to one felony count of theft of insurer funds and one felony count of filing a false 1996 federal individual income tax return.

According to the April 19 indictment, BOOS was a claims supervisor for Midland Risk Insurance Company in 1996 and embezzled \$228,260 from Midland by issuing 21 false claims checks and cashing them. TURNER aided BOOS in the embezzlement of this money by cashing some of the fraudulent checks.

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In addition, both BOOS and TURNER failed to report their portions of the embezzled money, totaling \$91,500 each, on their 1996 U.S. individual income tax returns.

The indictment also lists a third individual, LARRY BENEDICT ENG, 42, of Litchfield Park, Arizona, who was also charged in this investigation. That case is still pending.

Further, according to the plea agreements, BOOS and TURNER both agree to make restitution to Midland Insurance Company in the amount of \$228,260 and to another insurance company, Reliance Insurance Company, in the amount of \$270,697.

For the theft of insurer funds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1033(b)(1), both defendants face maximum sentences of ten years' imprisonment, fines of \$250,000 or twice the gain to the defendants because of the offense, or both. For the filing of false tax returns in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1), the defendants face maximum sentences of three years' imprisonment, fines of \$250,000, or both.

BOOS is scheduled to be sentenced on October 22, 2001, and TURNER is scheduled to be sentenced on October 15, 2001.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Phoenix Field Offices of IRS Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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The prosecution was handled by Mark E. Aspey, Assistant United States Attorney,
District of Arizona, Flagstaff.

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