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**FORMER STATE SENATOR THOMAS BROMWELL,
MARY PATRICIA BROMWELL AND W. DAVID STOFFREGEN
INDICTED IN A RACKETEERING SCHEME**

*Alleged Purpose of Scheme Was to Influence Thomas Bromwell
in His Official Capacity as a Maryland State Senator*

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today a federal grand jury indicted former state Senator Thomas L. Bromwell, Sr.; his wife, Mary Patricia Bromwell; and the former president and chief executive officer of the Poole and Kent Corporation, W. David Stoffregen, of Towson, Maryland, with crimes committed in connection with Bromwell's state Senate office, and minority contracting fraud.

The 30-count indictment charges the Bromwells and Stoffregen with conspiring to violate the Racketeer Influenced Criminal Organizations Act, commonly known as RICO, as well as wire fraud (except Mary Patricia Bromwell who is not charged with wire fraud), mail fraud and extortion. In addition, Thomas Bromwell is charged with one count of making a false statement to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and four counts of filing false tax returns. Stoffregen is also charged with one count of obstruction of justice relating to witness tampering.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "The charges in this indictment allege a serious abuse of public office for private financial gain. Citizens and businesspeople deserve to know that government officials in Maryland will be held accountable if they sell their offices."

The indictment alleges that during the late 1990s and early 2000s, Stoffregen provided various benefits to Senator Bromwell in exchange for Bromwell's agreement to use his influence and official position as a state senator to assist Stoffregen and his company, Poole and Kent. Alleged benefits that Bromwell received include construction work valued at more than \$85,000 on a new house built in Baltimore County in 2000 to 2001 that was provided by Stoffregen for free or at a reduced cost; and more than \$192,000 in payments provided to Mary Patricia Bromwell from January 2001 to May 30, 2003 for a no-show job at Namco Services Corporation.

In the fall of 2000, Stoffregen allegedly offered to pay Bromwell approximately \$80,000

annually to remain in his Senate office rather than leave the Senate to take a position at the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund. Bromwell allegedly agreed to remain in the Senate in exchange for the payments from Stoffregen that were disguised as the Namco salary payments to Mary Patricia Bromwell.

The indictment further alleges that Senator Bromwell, who was chair of the Senate Finance Committee, used his influence to help Poole and Kent win a multi-million dollar bid to perform the mechanical subcontract on the University of Maryland Medical System's (UMMS) Weinberg Building in downtown Baltimore. Bromwell also allegedly intervened in various business disputes on Poole and Kent's behalf, including contract disputes with UMMS and the State of Maryland regarding the Juvenile Justice Center construction project.

The indictment also alleges that Stoffregen and Mary Patricia Bromwell participated in a minority "front" company fraud scheme. According to the indictment, Stoffregen paid Geraldine Forti, the owner of a certified woman-owned business, to allow him to use her company's identity in order to satisfy certain minority contracting requirements on various public and private construction contracts. Ms. Forti, who has already pled guilty to a charge of filing a false tax return, did not control or manage Namco. Rather, Stoffregen and employees of Poole and Kent are alleged to have controlled and managed the company and its operations and used its minority status to obtain millions of dollars in contracts with various state, city and private entities. The indictment also alleges that Mary Patricia Bromwell posed as an employee and chief operating officer of Namco in order to deceive officials who were inspecting Namco in connection with its status as a woman-owned business. Michael Forti, Ms. Forti's spouse, also pled guilty to filing a false tax return and mail fraud, arising out of the alleged minority contracting scheme.

The indictment includes the following charges and maximum, potential penalties:

Thomas Bromwell	Count 1: Racketeering Conspiracy;	20 years in prison;
	Counts 11,13: Extortion under Color of Official Right;	3 years supervised release;
	Counts 12,14: Conspiracy to Commit Extortion under Color of Official Right.	\$250,000 fine or twice the amount of gain/loss
	Count 10: Mail Fraud (Corruption Scheme)	
	Counts 2, 3, 4: Wire Fraud;	5 years in prison;
	Counts 5,6,7,8,9: Mail Fraud; (Corruption Scheme)	3 years supervised release;
	Count 25: False Statement	\$250,000 fine or twice the amount of gain/loss
	Counts 27, 29: Filing False Corporate Tax Return;	3 years in prison;
	Counts 28, 30: Filing False Joint Personal Tax Return	1 years supervised release; \$250,000 fine or twice the amount of gain/loss
Mary Patricia Bromwell	Count 1: Racketeering Conspiracy;	20 years in prison;
	Count 11: Extortion under Color	3 years supervised release;

	of Official Right; Count 12: Conspiracy to Commit Extortion under Color of Official Right.	\$250,000 fine or twice the amount of gain/loss
	Counts 21-23: Mail Fraud (Minority Front Company)	
	Count 10: Mail Fraud (Corruption Scheme)	
	Counts 5, 7, 8,9: Mail Fraud (Corruption Scheme)	5 years in prison; 3 years supervised release.
W. David Stoffregen	Count 1: Racketeering Conspiracy; Counts 11,13: Extortion under Color of Official Right; Counts 12,14: Conspiracy to Commit Extortion under Color of Official Right.	20 years in prison; 3 years supervised release; \$250,000 fine or twice the amount of gain/loss
	Counts 18-24: Mail Fraud (Minority Front Company)	
	Count 10: Mail Fraud (Corruption Scheme)	
	Count 26: Obstruction of Justice/ Witness Tampering	10 years in prison; 3 years supervised release; \$250,000 fine or twice the amount of gain/loss
	Counts 2, 3, 4: Wire Fraud; Counts 5,6,7,8,9: Mail Fraud; (Corruption Scheme)	5 years in prison; 3 years supervised release; \$250,000 fine or twice the amount of gain/loss
	Counts 15-17: Mail Fraud (Minority Front Company)	

The indictment also seeks forfeiture of various assets alleged to be the proceeds of the charged offenses, including financial accounts, homes and vehicles.

The initial appearances of the defendants have not yet been scheduled.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation for their investigative work, and thanked Assistant United States Attorneys Kathleen O. Gavin and Michael J. Leotta, who are prosecuting the case.