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**OWNER OF POLLING COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY**

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that TRACY COSTIN, age 46, of Madison, Connecticut, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Janet C. Hall in Bridgeport to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, from June 2001 through May 2004, COSTIN owned and operated *DataUSA Inc.*, a polling and survey services company with its principal place of business in Guilford, Connecticut. *DataUSA* also operated a polling facility in West Haven, Connecticut. *DataUSA* employed numerous individuals to conduct surveys and political polls for clients throughout the United States. A survey or poll, when conducted properly, required *DataUSA* employees to contact members of the public by telephone, to read information and questions from a script, and to record responses on a computer system.

In pleading guilty, COSTIN admitted that she conspired to falsify survey and polling results in order to meet deadlines or other requirements that *DataUSA* otherwise could not meet. The results were falsified in a variety of ways, including changing demographic information, such as gender or political affiliation, to satisfy client requirements; completing surveys even after the individual being interviewed had hung up, and fabricating surveys in their entirety. From June 2002 through May 2004, COSTIN and other *DataUSA* employees falsified and submitted results to seven *DataUSA* clients resulting in losses of approximately \$190,133.

Judge Hall has scheduled sentencing for November 30, 2006, at which time COSTIN faces a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward Chang.

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