



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr. • United States Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 7, 2006

WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/TXS

JOHN YEMBRICK

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

(713) 567-9388

TWO MORE INDICTED FOR DEFRAUDING FEMA OF HURRICANE DISASTER FUNDS

Brings number charged with FEMA Fraud in Southern District to 15

HOUSTON, TX – Crystal McCumber, 27, of San Jacinto County, Texas, and Glenn Mark Jolivette, 40, of Navasota, Texas, have been indicted and charged with filing false claims to obtain hurricane disaster relief through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced that these two indictments, returned on April 4, 2006, bring the total number of persons charged in the Southern District of Texas with fraud relating to Hurricane Katrina and Rita disaster relief programs to fifteen.

Following the natural disasters wrought by Hurricane's Katrina and Rita, FEMA provided eligible households with an expedited payment of \$2,000 to assist victims with immediate food, shelter, and clothing needs. Moreover, eligible property owners could receive up to \$26,200 in disaster assistance, and eligible renters could receive up to \$4,358 in direct housing assistance from FEMA. To be eligible for FEMA assistance based on housing needs, the damaged home in the disaster area must be the applicant's primary residence at the time of the disaster.

Crystal McCumber, 27, of San Jacinto County, Texas, is accused in two separate counts of filing a false claim with FEMA for Hurricane Rita disaster relief. The indictment alleges that McCumber filed false claims on September 30 and October 4, 2005. Each of the two claims falsely stated her primary residence was a mobile home at 610 Cherry Creek Dr. in Sheperd, Texas, when Hurricane Rita made landfall, and that the damage to the mobile home was caused by the hurricane.

Special Agents from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General arrested McCumber on April 6, 2006. She is expected to appear before United States Magistrate Judge Frances Stacy today at 2:00 p.m.

Glenn Mark Jolivette, 40, of Navasota, Texas, is accused of filing a false claim with FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief on September 19, 2005. Jolivette allegedly filed a claim falsely stating that his primary residence when Hurricane Katrina made landfall was 1751 Gentilly Boulevard in New Orleans, and falsely asserted that Hurricane Katrina damaged his personal property.

Jolivette will make his initial appearance in federal court on April 12 at 10:00 a.m. before United States Magistrate Judge Nancy Johnson.

The false claim counts carry a statutory punishment range of up to five years in prison, without parole, and a fine of up to \$250,000, upon conviction.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas is a member of the Department of Justice's Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, created by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to deter, detect and prosecute unscrupulous individuals who try to take advantage of the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita disasters. Headed by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher, the Task Force is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement investigating agencies and the United States Attorney's Offices in the Gulf Coast region and nationwide.

These cases are the result of the continuing investigations being conducted by Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gregg Costa.

Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Information containing as many details as possible can also be emailed to the inspector general at dhsoighotline@dhs.gov or sent by surface mail to: Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC. 20528, Attn: Office of Inspector General, Hotline.

The public is reminded that an indictment or superseding indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

###