



# Department of Justice

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## **FOUR DEFENDANTS ARRAIGNED IN HALF-MILLION DOLLAR eBAY FRAUD SCHEME**

Atlanta, GA - JONATHAN REMBERT, 22, DWAYNE BARROW, 23, both of Queens, New York; CLARENCE SHELTON, 22, of Hempstead, New York, and ANDWELE BUTLER, 26, of Richmond, Virginia, were arraigned today on internet fraud charges. These defendants, and three others, face federal charges of wire fraud and conspiring to commit wire fraud related to a scheme to post non-existent items for sale on eBay and receive funds from unsuspecting purchasers. REMBERT, BARROW, SHELTON, and BUTLER were arraigned before United States Judge E. Clayton Scofield III.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This case should serve as a warning to individuals purchasing items via the Internet to exercise caution when making purchases. Here, the defendants are alleged to have posted items for sale on e-Bay and received money from unsuspecting purchasers, but never sent the merchandise to the buyers."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the indictment and information presented in court: The seven defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on January 23, 2007, charging them with engaging in a scheme to defraud individuals using eBay, a popular internet-based auction site. The indictment charges that the defendants used the auctions on eBay to sell custom-styled car tires and rims, and, in a few instances, vehicles. Interested eBay customers communicated with the defendants and negotiated the purchase of the items. The purchasers paid for the merchandise by wire transfer or by Western Union, but the defendants allegedly never sent any merchandise. From July 2003 through October 2006, at least 215 victims paid the defendants approximately \$539,000 for non-existent merchandise posted on eBay.

The four defendants arraigned today in Atlanta have been granted bond pending trial. One of the co-defendants, DARRELL KELLER, 20, of Jamaica, New York, is considered a fugitive. Anyone with information about KELLER is asked to call the FBI.

The Atlanta Division of the FBI began the investigating the fraud ring based on numerous complaints submitted to the “Internet Crime Complaint Center” (“IC3”). IC3 was established in 2000 as a partnership between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center to serve as a vehicle to receive, develop and refer criminal complaints regarding cybercrime. IC3 gives the victims of cybercrime a convenient and easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of suspected criminal violations. Information about IC3 is located on the Internet at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendants are presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendants' guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Aaron M. Danzig is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).