

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorneys William Cole 619-557-7859
John Owens 619-557-5629***

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 16, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Donald Manning pled guilty today to conspiracy and wire fraud charges in U.S. District Court in San Diego before the Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys William Cole and John Owens, who are prosecuting the case, Manning was the President of a Ponzi scheme called the "Brixon Group." Along with co-conspirators Joseph Wayne McCool and Camerdon Campbell, Manning recruited retirees and members of his own family to invest millions of dollars in the Brixon Group. Mannig told investors that the Brixon Group guaranteed large, guaranteed returns and that the investments were risk free. Manning also told investors that part of their investment would go toward humanitarian efforts overseas and that co-defendant McCool was a banking expert who, prior to working with Brixon, had successfully managed a large private trust in Europe.

As part of his guilty plea, Manning admitted that he and his coconspirators, in fact, intentionally concealed from investors that most of the money invested in Brixon would not be placed into investments and that new funds received from investors would be used to make payments to earlier investors. Manning further admitted that, through the Brixon scheme, he and his coconspirators converted much of the investors' money to their own personal use.

Both the United States Attorney's Office and the FBI acknowledged the assistance of the Arizona Corporation Commission in the investigation.

Manning's co-defendant, Cameron Campbell, previously pleaded guilty and is currently serving a 63-month sentence in federal prison. Law enforcement continues to seek the public's assistance in locating Joseph Wayne McCool, whose whereabouts are currently unknown.

Sentencing for Manning is scheduled for April 15, 2009 at 10:30 a.m., before Judge Moskowitz.

DEFENDANT

Case No. 06-CR-1021-BTM

Donald Manning

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

One Count - Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the U.S.
Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison, \$250,000 fine, and restitution.

One Count - Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 - Wire Fraud
Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison, \$250,000 fine, and restitution.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Arizona Corporation Commission