



U.S. Department of Justice

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Mar 2, 2009

Event: Indictment

Defendant: Valdez Andrews et al

FIVE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED IN IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME

An indictment was unsealed charging Valdez Andrews, 35 of Southfield, Stanley Bryanch, 32 of Canton, Dontrell Jones , 31, of Detroit, Ashley Walker, 32, of Detroit, and Tamara Walker, 34, of Redford Township with mail fraud and conspiracy, announced Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg. Andrews, Bryanch and Ashley Walker are also charged with Aggravated Identity Theft.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by William Callahan, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service, Detroit Field Office.

As alleged in the indictment, the defendants devised a scheme to defraud T-Mobile USA, Inc. ("T-Mobile"), Hewlett Packard Corporation ("HP"), and HSBC. As part of the scheme the defendants would illegally access confidential data of T-Mobile, allowing them to steal the identities of real persons with favorable credit histories. Defendants would then obtain credit or loans from HSBC in the names of the persons whose identities were stolen and use HSBC's

credit to purchase computers and electronics equipment from HP. The defendants would have the electronics equipment shipped to addresses in the Detroit area which they controlled and retrieve the electronics equipment and sell it, at a steep discount, to third parties, thereafter leaving the persons whose identities were stolen with outstanding debts to HSBC, HP without its merchandise and HSBC without payment.

The scheme involved a loss to HP or more than \$500,000. And it involved the theft of identities of more than 200 persons residing in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Acting U.S. Attorney Berg stated, "Identity theft is a huge problem, not only for law-abiding individuals whose good credit histories are stolen and damaged (and must be repaired), but also for companies such as HP and HSBC, which are victimized when the identity information is used to buy products for which they are not repaid. We will aggressively pursue identity theft."

SAC Callahan said, "This extensive investigation by Special Agent Glenn Woods illustrates that those individuals who commit identity theft in our community will be uncovered and prosecuted. This is one of the highest investigative priorities of the United States Secret Service."

This case was investigated by agents of the United States Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Varner.