

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

**AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or
MARCIA MURPHY at 410-209-4885**

MARCH 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md>

**THREE MEN SENTENCED FOR RUNNING AN ILLEGAL SPORTS BOOKMAKING OPERATION IN
BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Bettors Made Over 50,000 Calls in Seven Months to Offshore Wire Room

Greenbelt, Maryland - Herbert David Meyers, age 61, of Potomac, Maryland, was sentenced today to one year and one day in prison followed by three years of supervised release for money laundering and conspiracy to conduct an illegal gambling business, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Robert Levine, age 69, and his son, Steven Levine, age 45, both of Montgomery Village were sentenced to 3 years probation, with six months of that served as home detention, for conspiracy to conduct an illegal gambling business. Robert Levine also pleaded guilty to money laundering and Steven Levine to conducting an illegal gambling business. The three pleaded guilty to running Sports International 2000, a gambling business which later became part of World Wide Wagering, Inc.

U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "The defendants violated federal law by running an illegal gambling business in Maryland. The collections and payments were made here, and the bets were placed offshore in Dominica using the telephone and the internet."

According to the statements of fact presented to the court, from March 2001 to January 21, 2004, Meyers, his brother-in-law Robert Levine and others solicited prospective bettors from Maryland, Virginia and elsewhere to place wagers on professional and college football and basketball games and other sporting events. The organization provided prospective bettors with a code number, a password, a toll-free telephone number for an offshore wire room located in the Caribbean island nation of Dominica and an internet address. More than 50,000 phone calls were received from September 2002 to March 2003 on two of the toll-free telephone numbers set up by the defendants to handle the bookmaking business.

Robert Levine collected payments from losing bettors and made payments for winning wagers on Thursdays and Fridays at various locations throughout the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas. From 2001 to 2002 he deposited about \$279,000 into a bank account, and from May 2001 to December 2002 wire transferred \$146,000 to Sports International 2000 in Dominica to cover bookmaking business expenses. As part of his plea agreement, Robert Levine agreed to forfeit \$53,520.22 seized from his home and bank account on January 21, 2004, as proceeds of the gambling business.

Meyers also deposited over \$50,000 of gambling proceeds into the bank account of a former girlfriend in an attempt to conceal the source of the funds. As part of his plea agreement Meyers agreed to forfeit \$170,000, his share of the proceeds from the sale of property located at 10817 S. Glen Road, Potomac, Maryland.

Levine's son, Steven Levine, managed the illegal gambling business' offshore operations and negotiated rates and/or obtained toll-free telephone services.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the investigative work performed by the Internal Revenue Service- Criminal Investigation and Montgomery County Police Department. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bryan Foreman and Emily Glatfelter, who are prosecuting the case.