



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BROOKLYN BUSINESSMAN WHO FALSELY CLAIMED TO BE
A DISABLED VETERAN FOUND GUILTY OF FRAUD
IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT**

*Defendant Fraudulently Obtained Over \$16 Million
In Contracts Set Aside For Veterans*

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN RAYMOND ANTHONY WHITE was found guilty yesterday by a jury in Manhattan federal court of six crimes stemming from his fraud on the United States government by falsely claiming to be both a veteran and disabled in order to qualify for certain government contracts, and for his efforts to cover up that fraud. WHITE obtained government contracts worth more than \$16 million as a result of U.S. District Judge SIDNEY H. STEIN presided over the five-day trial.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "John Raymond Anthony White exploited valuable resources intended for the men and women who put their lives on the line for our country and are often disabled as a result. As yesterday's guilty verdict demonstrates, we will use the full force of the federal law to prosecute and punish those who attempt to defraud the Government and lie for their own unjust enrichment."

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial in Manhattan federal court:

From June 2007 through June 2010, WHITE falsely claimed that he was both a veteran and disabled in connection with awards for four federal government construction contracts. The contracts were administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") and the United States Department of the Army ("Army") to perform work for the VA in New York, New York, Montrose, New York, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and Loch Raven, Maryland. The contracts were specifically designated to be awarded only to small businesses that were owned by veterans or

disabled veterans. WHITE, who never served in the military,

During the course of the investigation in this case, WHITE made false statements to a federal agent claiming that another person who had served in the United States military was the majority owner of his company, Mitsubishi Construction Corporation. WHITE then attempted to have that person falsely claim to the VA that he, and not WHITE, was the majority owner of the company.

* * *

JOHN RAYMOND ANTHONY WHITE, 46, of Brooklyn, New York, faces a maximum sentence of 75 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$3,750,000. He is scheduled to be sentenced on July 20, 2011, by Judge STEIN.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, and the Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General.

The case is being handled by the Office's General Crimes Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys ALVIN BRAGG and LEE RENZIN are in charge of the prosecution.

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