

U.S. Department of Justice

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THREE INDIVIDUALS INDICTED AND ARRESTED FOR CONSPIRACY AND CONCEALMENT OF ASSETS OF THE FARMACIA EL SEÑORIAL

San Juan, Puerto Rico- Rosa E. Piedrahita, partial owner of ALR Investments and manager of Farmacia El Señorial, Andrés Núñez, partial owner of ALR Investments and involved in operations of the pharmacy and Ana L. Piedrahita, partial owner of ALR Investments and employed at the pharmacy, were arrested on conspiracy and concealment of assets charges, announced U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez.

ALR Investments, d/b/a Farmacial El Señorial ("ALR Investments" or "Farmacia El Señorial") was created to own and operate Farmacia El Señorial, a local pharmacy in Puerto Rico. On or about June 20, 2003, in the District of Puerto Rico, defendant, Rosa E. Piedrahita, commenced a Chapter 11 case on behalf of ALR Investments, captioned *In re ALR Investment Corp. d/b/a Farmacia El Señorial*, Case No. 03-06571 (JMD), by filing a petition in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico. On July 27, 2003, Rosa E. Piedrahita, filed a Summary of Schedules, bankruptcy schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs. In these filings, she falsely identified herself as the sole owner and officer of ALR Investments and listed total assets of \$174,820 and total liabilities of \$627,326.

On or about March 4, 5 and 29, 2003, approximately three months before the bankruptcy, Ana L. Piedrahita and Andres Nuñez transferred approximately \$10,000 belonging to Farmacia El Señorial, into a personal account belonging to Andrés Núñez. Beginning on or about September 12, 2003 and continuing through June 2, 2004, without knowledge or approval of the Bankruptcy Court, United States Trustee and creditors, Andrés Núñez deposited approximately \$47,000 in insurance reimbursements and other receivables belonging to Farmacia El Señorial into an account at Caribe Federal Credit Union ("Caribe Account"). From on or about October 29, 2003 and continuing through June 23, 2004, without knowledge or approval of the Bankruptcy Court, United States Trustee, and creditors, Andrés Núñez used the funds in the Caribe Account to pay certain suppliers, accounts payable and debts of Farmacia El Señorial. In addition, Andrés Núñez used these funds to make a personal mortgage payment for Ana L. Piedrahita.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office in Puerto Rico will continue to investigate and prosecute cases involving bankruptcy fraud", said U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez. "Financial crimes or as commonly known, white collar crimes, are in most, if not all cases, punishable by imprisonment, fines or both; and we will continue prosecuting these kind of cases to the full extent of the law."

"The U.S. Trustee Program is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice that protects the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigating to enforce the bankruptcy laws," said Assistant U.S. Trustee, Monsita Lecaroz. "The U.S. Trustee Program commends the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General ("DHS-OIG") and the Office of the U.S. Attorney for their investigation and prosecution of this bankruptcy debtor, and for their interest and assistance in the pursuit of fraud and abuse in bankruptcy cases filed in Puerto Rico."

The penalty for the charges against these defendants is a maximum term of imprisonment of five (5) years and a maximum fine of \$250,000 dollars.

The case was investigated by DHS-OIG agents with the assistance of Monsita Lecaroz-Arribas, Assistant U.S. Trustee, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles R. Walsh.