



Two Former Secretary of State Road Test Examiners Indicted for Allegedly Accepting Cash Bribes to Guarantee Passing Test

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 7:17 AM November 15, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on November 14, 2011 released the following:

“CHICAGO— Two former road test examiners for the Illinois Secretary of State were indicted for allegedly accepting cash bribes to pass customers who were unqualified or never took the road test, federal law enforcement officials announced today. The charges stem from an investigation that was unveiled in 2009 when members and associates of an alleged crime ring were accused of selling fraudulent identification documents in Chinatown on the city’s near south side. The new defendants allegedly conspired between 2005 and 2007 with several of the defendants charged previously to accept cash bribes in return for guaranteeing that an unspecified number of customers would pass the road test, enabling them to obtain an Illinois driver’s license.

One defendant, Christopher Wardlaw, 36, was arrested today, while the other defendant, Alanda Jackson, 31, both of Chicago, will be ordered to appear for arraignment at a later date in U.S. District Court. Both were road test examiners at the Secretary of State’s Chicago South Facility, located at 9901 South Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. They were charged with one count of conspiracy to commit extortion in an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury last Thursday and unsealed today following Wardlaw’s arrest. Wardlaw was released on his own recognizance after appearing this morning before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffery T. Gilbert.

The indictment seeks forfeiture of \$40,000, representing alleged illegal

proceeds.

The charges were announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Robert D. Grant, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office of the FBI; Chicago Police Superintendent Garry F. McCarthy; and Illinois Secretary of State Inspector General James B. Burns. The charges are part of Operation Paper Mountain, which has resulted in federal charges against approximately three dozen defendants since 2009.

According to the indictment, Wardlaw and Jackson conspired with another former SOS employee, Timothy Johnson, as well as with Jun Yun Zhang, Lili Liu, Tiansheng Zhang, and others, who were indicted in 2009. Each of those defendants has pleaded guilty to related federal charges. The Zhangs and other defendants routinely escorted customers to Secretary of State driver’s license facilities to fraudulently obtain state identification cards or driver’s licenses, typically using counterfeit or altered authentic Chinese passports and legitimate social security account numbers with the prefix “586” that were assigned to other people. The 586 prefix is unusual because it is assigned to individuals in the Northern Mariana Islands, including Saipan, Guam and American Samoa.

When co-conspirators accompanied customers to the Chicago South facility, Wardlaw and Jackson allegedly guaranteed passing results on the road test either by serving as the examiner and passing the customer even if he or she failed the road test, or by obtaining the customer’s road test paperwork from a co-conspirator and indicating that the customer passed when, in fact, the customer never took the test.

The government is being represented by

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matthew Madden, Steven J. Dollear and Yasmin Best.

Extortion conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. If convicted, the court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal statutes and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.’s

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Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

Former Alabama State Legislator Pleads Guilty to Bribery

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:03 PM November 15, 2011

Terry Spicer, a former Alabama state legislator, pleaded guilty today in U.S.

District Court for the Middle District of Alabama to a one-count criminal information charging him with federal program bribery for accepting cash and

other things of value from a businessman and his lobbyist in return for the use of his official position and influence.



Federal Judge: Condoleezza Rice's testimony at leak trial must be live

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 11:08 AM November 15, 2011

Politico on November 15, 2011 released the following:

Posted by Josh Gerstein

"Former National Security Adviser and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will be required to testify live and in person at the trial of a former Central Intelligence Agency officer accused of leaking top-secret information about U.S. efforts to sabotage Iran's nuclear program, a federal judge has ruled.

Prosecutors want to tell jurors in the case against ex-CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling about a White House meeting in April 2003 involving then-National Security Adviser Rice, then-CIA Director George Tenet along with New York Times reporter James Risen and then-DC bureau chief of the Times Jill Abramson. Court records indicate At the session, Rice and Tenet pleaded with Abramson and Risen not to publish information Risen had obtained about the CIA effort to give Iran flawed nuclear designs.

Prosecutors asked U.S. District Court Judge Leonie Brinkema to allow them to show the jury talking points Rice used at the session warning of the grave consequences that could flow from publishing details of the CIA operation. However, the prosecution indicated it wanted to show the jury the talking points without calling Rice as a witness.

In a little-noticed order last month, Brinkema rejected that effort, writing that **Associate Attorney General Thomas J. Perrelli Speaks at the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Conference**

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 1:27 PM November 15, 2011

"The Department is forging ahead, trying not only to uphold the United States' trust responsibility to American Indian tribes, but also to ensure that every Native American man, woman and child can thrive in a tribal community that is just as safe as any other community in our great nation," said Associate Attorney General Perrelli.

Former Bryan County, Okla., Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Indicted for Civil Rights Violations and Obstruction of Justice

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 5:05 PM November 15, 2011

A federal grand jury sitting in Muskogee,

the prosecution's motion was "denied to the extent that the Government seeks to admit Dr. Rice's written talking points in place of her testimony."

Rice, who is on a publicity tour to promote her new book, "No Higher Honor," did not respond to messages seeking comment for this post. In a written declaration filed in court by prosecutors, Rice said she could not testify that she delivered the still-secret talking points "word for word as written," but that she "would have adhered closely to" them.

The defense's position on Rice's testimony remains under seal pending a classification review. However, the confrontation clause in the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution usually requires that witnesses in a criminal case testify live in the courtroom.

The Times never published Risen's story. However, he turned it into a chapter for a book he published in 2006, "State of War." Sterling is accused of violating the Espionage Act by leaking top-secret information about the CIA effort to Risen.

Prosecutors have suggested they may try to make some hay of the fact that the Times agreed to suppress the story, but Risen deemed it appropriate to publish in his book, albeit three years later. Abramson, who was elevated in June to executive editor of the Times, has not commented publicly on the decision about Risen's story.

If Rice is required to testify at Sterling's trial, it probably won't be for a while. A **Remarks as Prepared for Delivery by Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Laurie Robinson at the Animal Welfare Institute Albert Schweitzer Awards Ceremony**

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:34 PM November 15, 2011

"The Albert Schweitzer Awards are given in honor of one of the world's great humanitarians, a man who defined "good" as the preservation and enhancement of life in all its forms. The work that these recipients have done embodies the soul of Schweitzer's philosophy," said Assistant Attorney General Robinson.

Okla., returned an indictment today charging former Bryan County, Okla., Sheriff's Lieutenant Kevin Bennett Holt,

trial date set last month was scuttled at the last minute after prosecutors decided to appeal several of Brinkema's rulings.

The appeals involve Brinkema's ruling that Risen need not testify about his confidential sources and, as NPR first reported last week, another decision barring two prosecution witnesses because prosecutors belatedly disclosed information about them to the defense."

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Statement of Deputy Section Chief Richard Downing Before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:01 PM November 15, 2011

"The Administration has responded to Congress' call for input on the cybersecurity legislation that our Nation needs, and we look forward to engaging with Congress and, specifically, this Committee as you move forward on this important issue," said Deputy Section Chief Richard Downing.

48, of Achille, Okla., with federal civil rights violations and related acts of obstruction of justice.



Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer Speaks at the American Lawyer/National Law Journal Summit

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 11:10 AM November 15, 2011

"Sentencing and corrections policy affects everyone in society, and I am confident that the more people are thinking about it, the easier it will prove to arrive at solutions," said Assistant Attorney General Breuer.

Alabama Tax Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Using Stolen Identities to Obtain Tax Refunds

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 5:04 PM November 15, 2011

Marsha Elmore of Wetumpka, Ala., the owner of a tax preparation business called Community Tax, pleaded guilty today to charges related to her use of stolen identities to fraudulently obtain tax refunds.

Virginia Store Owner Pleads Guilty to Trafficking in Counterfeit Goods

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 11:45 AM November 15, 2011

Belal Amin Alsaidi, 30, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty today to trafficking in counterfeit goods.

Pennsylvania Man Charged with Copyright Infringement of Sports Broadcasts

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 4:47 PM November 15, 2011

The seven-count indictment alleges that Michael Moore, 44, of Chadds Ford, Penn., infringed the copyright protected works during seven six-month periods between May 2006 and June 2010.