



Jamar Pharr Plead Guilty in Federal Court to Conspiracy to Engage in a Racketeering Enterprise and Devon Sheale Pled Guilty in Federal Court to Violence in Aid of Racketeering

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

Submitted at 11:35 AM August 19, 2011

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) on August 18, 2011 released the following: "Two Pittsburgh Crips Members Plead Guilty to Racketeering Charges Additional Pittsburgh Crips Gang Member Sentenced to Prison

WASHINGTON – Two members of the Crips gang pleaded guilty today in federal court in Pittsburgh to charges of conspiring to conduct a racketeering enterprise, announced Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Justice Department's Criminal Division and U.S. Attorney David J. Hickton of the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Jamar Pharr, 27, of Pittsburgh, aka "Brownway," pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to engage in a racketeering enterprise before Senior U.S. District Judge Gustave Diamond in the Western District of Pennsylvania. Devon Shealey, 25, of Pittsburgh, pleaded guilty before Judge Diamond to one count of violence in aid of racketeering.

In addition, yesterday Karl Anger, 22, aka "K-Loc," was sentenced by Judge Diamond to 58 months in prison for conspiracy to participate in a racketeering enterprise, consecutive to 72 months he is currently serving on a state court conviction for an aggravated assault shooting, for a total of 130 months in prison. The shooting was also charged in the federal indictment as part of the racketeering conspiracy. Anger pleaded guilty on Jan. 19, 2011, to the federal racketeering conspiracy charge.

According to court documents, Pharr, Shealey, Anger and others participated in a pattern of racketeering activity that included robberies at gun point; attempted murders; distribution of heroin and crack cocaine; obstruction of justice and witness intimidation. The three defendants were members of different gangs in the Northside area of Pittsburgh that formed

an alliance in 2003 to expand the gang's drug trafficking territory and increase the gang's membership to better protect their territory and profits. Members of the gang, known as the Brighton Place/Northview Heights Crips, maintained exclusive control over drug trafficking in these neighborhoods through continuous violence and intimidation of rivals and witnesses. Gang members supported each other through payment of attorneys' fees and bonds, as well as payments to jail commissary accounts and support payments to incarcerated members' families.

Gang members had violent confrontations with members of the rival Manchester OGs, and other street gangs operating in the Northside area of Pittsburgh. Members and associates obtained greater authority and prestige within the enterprise based on their reputation for violence and their ability to obtain and sell a steady supply of illegal drugs.

According to court documents, the Brighton Place/Northview Heights Crips gang members identify themselves by wearing blue, flashing Crips gang hand signals, and using phrases such as "Cuz," "C-Safe," "Loc" and "G.K."

According to court documents, Pharr was considered a respected member and leader in the enterprise. Pharr had a reputation for violence, and instructed other members and associates of the enterprise as to how to conduct the affairs of the enterprise, including how to possess and distribute firearms and controlled substances, and how to commit acts of violence and witness intimidation. Pharr also distributed controlled substances, including heroin.

Shealey and Anger were considered "gorillas" or "soldiers" for the enterprise, providing protection for the enterprise through the possession of firearms and committing acts of violence. Specifically, according to Shealey's plea agreement, he was involved in shooting at a member of

the Manchester OGs, in an effort to maintain and increase his position within the gang. According to information presented at sentencing, Anger obstructed justice when he tried to convince the victim in his assault case not to testify.

At sentencing, Pharr and Shealey each face maximum prison sentences of 20 years. Shealey is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 19, 2011, at 11:00 a.m., and Pharr on Dec. 15, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Pharr, Shealey and Anger are three of 26 defendants charged in February 2010 with being members of, and conducting racketeering activity through, the Brighton Place/Northview Heights Crips gang. This prosecution resulted from a Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force investigation that began in 2005. To date, 23 members or associates of the Brighton Place/Northview Heights Crips who were charged in this indictment have pleaded guilty to racketeering charges.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Charles A. Eberle and Troy Rivetti of the Western District of Pennsylvania and Trial Attorney Kevin Rosenberg of the Criminal Division's Organized Crime and Gang Section. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police; the Allegheny County, Penn., Police Department; and the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office."

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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

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Documenting How a Bill Becomes a Law

Tracy Russo (USDOJ: Justice Blog)

Submitted at 2:29 PM August 19, 2011

Have you ever wondered about the legislative process that led to the creation

of the Department of Justice in 1870? Or how Congress changed the law concerning telemarketers in 1998? A number of digitized legislative histories

compiled by the Department of Justice library staff throughout the years on laws of interest to department have now been [...]



Madison Federal Grand Jury Returned Federal Indictments Yesterday

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

Submitted at 3:05 PM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 19, 2011 released the following:

“Federal Grand Jury Returns Indictments
MADISON, WI—A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments yesterday. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Two Madison Residents Charged with Gun Crimes

Travis Talley, 28, Madison, Wis., is charged with three counts of unlawfully possessing a firearm after previously being convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. The indictment alleges that from August 2, 2010 to November 3, 2010, Talley unlawfully possessed two .45 caliber pistols, a .40 caliber pistol, and ammunition. Ashley Wire, 24, Madison, is charged with three counts of making a false statement on a federally required form. The indictment alleges that on July 31, August 27, and November 1, 2010, she falsely stated on a Firearms Transaction Record that she was the actual buyer of a firearm, when in fact she was not.

If convicted, Talley faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison on each count, and Wire faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison on each count. The charges against them are the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Madison Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

Three Face Crack Cocaine Charges
Ryan K. Cook, 20, Madison, Wis.; Calvin T. Balentine, 29, Chicago; and Basil D. Greene, 21, Madison, face multiple charges regarding the distribution of crack cocaine in the Madison area. Greene is charged with possessing cocaine with intent to distribute, and with possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. The indictment alleges that he possessed crack cocaine and a .45 caliber firearm on March 17, 2011. Greene is also charged with distributing crack cocaine on July 15 and August 2, 2011 and with using a telephone on those dates to facilitate the commission of a felony, specifically the distribution of crack cocaine.

Balentine is charged with possessing

crack cocaine with intent to distribute on August 1, 2011, and with using a telephone on August 3 and 4, 2011, to facilitate the commission of a felony, specifically the distribution of crack cocaine. Greene and Balentine were originally charged with conspiracy to possess crack cocaine with intent to distribute in a complaint filed in U.S. District Court on August 8, 2011.

Cook is charged with distributing crack cocaine on April 4, 12 and 20, 2011. The indictment alleges that the amount he distributed on April 4 was 28 grams or more. Cook is also charged in a separate indictment returned by the grand jury yesterday with being a felon in possession of a firearm and possessing a firearm with an obliterated serial number. The indictment alleges that he possessed the firearm on August 5, 2011.

If convicted, the defendants face a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison on each drug count. Cook faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in federal prison on the count involving 28 grams or more of crack cocaine. The telephone counts carry a maximum penalty of four years in federal prison, and the firearms counts have a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The charges against them are the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force, Drug Enforcement Administration, Rock County Safe Streets Task Force (comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Beloit Police Department, and Rock County Sheriff's Department), Wisconsin State Patrol, Madison Police Department, Dane County Sheriff's Department, University of Wisconsin Police Department, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

Six Indicted for Marijuana Grow Operation

Six men have been charged in a four-count indictment with conspiracy to manufacture marijuana, to possess marijuana with intent to distribute, and to distribute marijuana. They are also charged with manufacturing 1,000 or more marijuana plants, and with possessing marijuana within intent to distribute. The defendants allegedly cultivated a large marijuana grow operation in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin. The individuals charged are:

1. Jose Esqueda-Garcia, 19, a citizen of

Mexico;

2. Norberto Burciago, 40, St. Paul, Minn.;
3. Cesar Omar Tinoco, 21, a citizen of Mexico;
4. Moises Lopez-Ontiveros, 21, a citizen of Mexico;
5. Jorge Lopez-Ontiveros, 24, a citizen of Mexico; and
6. Abraham Ramirez, 29, a citizen of Mexico.

Moises Lopez-Ontiveros and Jorge Lopez-Ontiveros are brothers.

The indictment alleges that Norberto Burciago transported supplies, groceries, and other items necessary for the grow operation to the other five defendants, who were camped at a remote site within the forest for the purpose of tending to, caring for, protecting, and ultimately harvesting over 9,000 marijuana plants that had been secretly planted on U.S. Forest Service land.

The indictment also charges Jose Esqueda-Garcia, Cesar Omar Tinoco, Moises Lopez-Ontiveros, Jorge Lopez-Ontiveros, and Abraham Ramirez with possessing firearms during and in relation to drug trafficking crimes. The indictment alleges that on August 10, 2011, they possessed three rifles and three handguns.

If convicted, each defendant faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years and a maximum of life in federal prison on the three marijuana counts. The firearms count carries a penalty of not less than five years, to be served consecutive to any other penalty imposed. The charges against these individuals are the result of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation; Ashland County Sheriff's Department; Drug Enforcement Administration; U.S. Forest Service; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Northwest Area Crime Unit (comprised of Sawyer, Douglas and Washburn County Sheriffs' Departments and Superior Police Department); U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. The prosecution of the case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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Cynthia Darlene Strickland Pled Guilty to Bank Fraud in Jacksonville Federal District Court

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

Submitted at 3:17 PM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 19, 2011 released the following:

“Former Jacksonville Title Agency Owner Pleads Guilty in Mortgage Fraud Scheme JACKSONVILLE, FL— U.S. Attorney Robert E. O’Neill announces that Cynthia Darlene Strickland (age 45, Jacksonville) pleaded guilty on Thursday to bank fraud. Strickland was a licensed title agent and the owner of Premier Title Group, Inc., a title agency in Jacksonville. She faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison.

According to court documents, the orchestrator of the mortgage fraud scheme was Juan Carlos Gonzalez, who previously pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years in prison. Gonzalez entered into contracts to buy residential real estate properties and retained a licensed real estate appraiser, Barry Westergom, to appraise the properties. Westergom, who previously pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years in prison, fraudulently appraised the properties at values that were significantly inflated above the agreed purchase price.

Gonzalez recruited third-party buyers to enter into a second contract that listed the fraudulently inflated appraised value as the purchase price. Gonzalez applied for mortgage loans in the name of the third-party buyers and in support of the applications he submitted the second contract, the fraudulent appraisal, and

false financial information about the buyers. Based upon this information, banks and other mortgage lenders approved the loans.

Gonzalez recruited Strickland to be the closing agent for the transactions. Strickland’s plea agreement describes a transaction that was funded by first and second mortgage loans that Gonzalez fraudulently obtained from Lehman Brothers Bank. As part of her responsibilities as closing agent, Strickland prepared a standard settlement statement that identified various expenses, payments, and disbursements related to the transaction. The fraudulent documents were relied upon by the bank’s and other mortgage lenders during the loan approval process.

On the settlement statement, Strickland represented that the purchase price of the property was \$725,000, the inflated appraised value, when in fact the purchase price was \$570,000, the price Gonzalez had negotiated with the sellers. Although Strickland knew that two contracts existed, one for the lower price negotiated with the sellers and one for the higher price based on the inflated appraisal, she did not inform the bank of these facts.

Strickland also falsely represented on the settlement statement that the third-party buyer would make a \$70,694.24 down payment when in fact no down payment was made. During the closing, Strickland informed the bank that all closing conditions had been met and, as a result, the bank disbursed a first mortgage loan of \$581,239.51 and a second mortgage

loan of \$104,170.47. After the bank disbursed the funds, Strickland issued a check to Gonzalez for \$155,000, which was the difference between the actual purchase price, \$570,000, and the inflated appraised value, \$725,000. Gonzalez deposited the funds at a financial institution and obtained a cashier’s check in the name of the third-party buyer for the down payment. Gonzalez then provided this check to Strickland, who deposited it into her title agency’s escrow account as the down payment for the transaction.

As part of her plea agreement, Strickland agreed to forfeit \$178,625, which is the total amount of the fees she received from the fraudulent transactions. Strickland also agreed to pay restitution claims made by victims of the offense in the amount of \$531,356.62.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Arnold B. Corsmeier.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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Derrick Johnson Pled Guilty in New Orleans Federal Court to Federal Drug Charges

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

Submitted at 11:48 AM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 18, 2011 released the following:

“LaPlace-Area Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Drug Charges NEW ORLEANS, LA— DERRICK JOHNSON, age 35, from the LaPlace, Louisiana area, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Lance M. Africk to violations of the Federal Controlled Substances Act involving conspiracy to possess and possession with the intent to distribute cocaine hydrochloride, announced U.S. Attorney Jim Letten.

According to court documents, on or about March 31, 2010, JOHNSON and

two co-defendants conspired to retrieve a kilogram of cocaine hydrochloride from a hidden location in Lacombe, Louisiana. Unbeknownst to them, a confidential source had tipped off law enforcement authorities to the plan and both men were arrested shortly after taking possession of the kilogram of cocaine. JOHNSON pleaded guilty to both counts of the indictment, which alleged conspiracy to possess and possession with the intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine hydrochloride.

Sentencing is schedule for on November 17, 2011, and the defendant faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 40 years, a maximum fine of \$5 million, and four years of supervised release.

This investigation was investigated by the

St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward J. Rivera.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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Brian Gene Montgomery Indicted by a Minneapolis Federal Grand Jury for Receipt of Child Pornography, Distributing Child Pornography, and Possession of Child Pornography

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

Submitted at 2:58 PM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 19, 2011 released the following:

“Oakdale Man Indicted for Receiving, Distributing, Possessing Child Pornography

MINNEAPOLIS— An indictment unsealed early this morning charges a 50-year-old Oakdale man with receiving, distributing, and possessing child pornography. The indictment, filed on August 17, 2011, charges Brian Gene Montgomery with three counts of receipt of child pornography, one count of distributing child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography. The indictment was unsealed following Montgomery’s initial appearance late yesterday afternoon in federal court.

The indictment alleges that Montgomery received images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on November 17, 2010, and received a video containing similar material on November 18, 2010. In addition, the indictment alleges that on February 23, 2011, Montgomery

distributed an image containing similar conduct, and that on May 4, 2011, he possessed thousands of such images.

If convicted, Montgomery faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each receipt count and the distribution charge, as well as ten years on the possession charge. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Cyber Crimes Task Force, which is sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Secret Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Laura M. Provinzino and Kimberly A. Svendsen.

Presently, the Justice Department is funding a study concerning the correlation between involvement in child pornography and the hands-on sexual abuse of children. A 2008 study (The Butner Study) published in the Journal of Family Violence found that up to 80 percent of federal inmates incarcerated for possession, receipt, or distribution of child pornography also admitted to hands-on sexual abuse of children, ranging from

touching to rape.

The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to combating the sexual exploitation of children, particularly via the Internet. In fiscal year 2010, 2,235 defendants pleaded guilty to federal child pornography charges, 2,222 of whom were sentenced to prison. In fiscal year 2009, 2,083 defendants were sentenced to prison on child pornography charges. For more information about these efforts, please visit the Department’s Project Safe Childhood website, at www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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Ryan J. Ferraro, Matthew J. Gattis, and Nestor D. Astorga-Villegas Indicted by a Phoenix Federal Grand Jury for Conspiracy to Commit Armed Bank Robbery, Use of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence and Aiding and Abetting

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

Submitted at 11:29 AM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 18, 2011 released the following:

“Three Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Indicted for Foiled Armed Bank Robbery

PHOENIX— Ryan J. Ferraro, 20; Matthew J. Gattis, 22; and Nestor D. Astorga-Villegas, 20; all of Phoenix, were indicted this week on charges of conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery and use of a firearm during a crime of violence and aiding and abetting. All three are members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Astorga-Villegas has been detained pending trial; the remaining two defendants will appear for a detention hearing at 2:00 p.m. today in federal court.

The indictment alleges that the trio devised a detailed plan to carry out an armed bank robbery, including securing

firearms to be used in the robbery, maps of the bank, and creating disguises. Trial in this case is set for October 4, 2011 before U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Martone.

A conviction for conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. A conspiracy to commit use of a firearm during a crime of violence carries a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Martone will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply a method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that established guilt beyond a reasonable

doubt.

The investigation is being conducted by the FBI’s Bank Robbery Task Force, which includes the FBI, Phoenix Police Department, Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office and Mesa Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Alison S. Bachus, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER:
CR-11-1609-PHX-FJM”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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Businessman Pleads Guilty in Utah to Tax Charge

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 4:40 PM August 19, 2011

Scott Robertson pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Brooke C. Wells in

Salt Lake City to one count of making and subscribing a false tax return for 2003.



Steven Harold Loga Pled Guilty in Baton Rouge Federal Court to a Bill of Information Charging Him With Bank Fraud and Money Laundering

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

Submitted at 11:42 AM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 18, 2011 released the following:
 “Guilty Plea in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Bank Fraud and Money Laundering
 BATON ROUGE, LA— United States Attorney Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr., announced that STEVEN HAROLD LOGA, age 42, of Denham Springs, Louisiana, pled guilty today before Senior United States District Court Judge Frank J. Polozola to a two-count bill of information which charged him with bank fraud and money laundering.

According to the stipulated factual basis, LOGA owned and operated Warehouse Food Group, a Baton Rouge wholesaler which sold seafood to institutional food service companies. Between June 2008 and October 2008, LOGA defrauded Fidelity Bank by obtaining credit advances secured by fraudulent collateral. Fidelity Bank lost approximately \$1,229,745 as a result of the scheme. Once LOGA collected the proceeds of the fraud, he then conducted various,

Eric Peterson Arrested by the FBI Based on a Federal Criminal Complaint Charging Him with Violation of 18 U.S.C. 2252(a), Possession/Receipt of Child Pornography

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

Submitted at 2:54 PM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 19, 2011 released the following:

“Marietta Man Arrested on Child Pornography Charges

ATLANTA— Special Agent in Charge Brian D. Lamkin announces the following arrest at Marietta, Georgia:

On August 17, 2011, Eric Peterson, age 37, of Marietta, Georgia, was arrested by agents of the FBI at his residence in Marietta, Georgia based on a federal criminal complaint charging him with violation of Title 18 USC 2252 (a), possession/receipt of child pornography.

On August 18, 2011, Peterson, an attorney, was afforded his initial appearance in front of U.S. Magistrate

substantial, financial transactions with the illegal proceeds at another local bank.

As a result of his guilty plea to bank fraud, LOGA faces a maximum sentence of a term of imprisonment of not more than 30 years, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both, in addition to restitution in the amount of \$1,229,745; as a result of his guilty plea to money laundering, LOGA faces a maximum sentence of a 10-year term of imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr., United States Attorney, stated, “This is another case which demonstrates our commitment to going after white collar criminals who seek to undermine our financial institutional systems. This plea is the result of the collaborative efforts of the IRS and FBI with our office, and we look forward to continuing these joint efforts to catch and punish fraudsters.”

Jim Lee, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, stated, “IRS stands ready to partner with all law enforcement agencies to pursue individuals who commit bank fraud which can negatively impact our community and economy.”

David Welker, Special Agent in Charge,

Judge Gerrilyn G. Brill in Atlanta, Georgia wherein Peterson was released on a conditional bond.

The public should be reminded that the above are merely allegations and that all persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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FBI-New Orleans Field Division, stated, “White-collar crimes such as this continue to erode the stability of our economy. The FBI will continue to collaborate with our law enforcement partners to identify, aggressively investigate, and bring to justice, those individuals that would defraud our financial institutions.”

This matter was investigated by special agents of the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The matter is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney René I. Salomon.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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MADISON

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and OFAC SDN List Removal.

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Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez Speaks at the Antelope Valley Investigation Announcement

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:59 PM August 19, 2011

“Based on our preliminary review, we have decided to expand our investigation to also focus on allegations that the Lancaster and Palmdale stations of the LASD are engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination on the basis of race or national origin,” said Assistant Attorney General Perez.

FBI’s Top Ten News Stories for the Week Ending August 19, 2011

fbi (Current)

— Washington, D.C.



Alfredo Sararo, III Indicted by a Pittsburgh Federal Grand Jury for Wire Fraud and Filing False Income Tax Returns

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

Submitted at 11:45 AM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 18, 2011 released the following:

“Floridian Charged in Fraud Scheme
PITTSBURGH— Alfredo Sararo, III, a resident of Naples, Fla., has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Pittsburgh on seven counts of wire fraud and four counts of filing false income tax returns, United States Attorney David J. Hickton announced today.

The 11-count superseding indictment named, Sararo, 41, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictment presented to the court, Sararo participated in a fraud scheme designed to solicit investors to purchase Florida real estate, and to lenders to lend money for the purchase of Florida real estate based on a series of misrepresentations. The indictment further alleges that Sararo directed that an individual falsely notarize deeds; that Sararo directed that another individual call

an investor and falsely claim that he represented individuals interested in purchasing the investor’s properties; that Sararo made several misrepresentations to an investor; and that Sararo requested that another individual signed a backdated document falsely representing that the individual was interested in purchasing one of the investor’s properties. The indictment further alleges that Sararo participated in a scheme to defraud a lender by assisting in the submission of a loan application that falsely represented the application’s financial condition.

The indictment also alleges that Sararo filed false federal income tax returns and false federal amended income tax returns for the calendar years 2004 and 2005 in that he failed to accurately report his income.

The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 152 years in prison, a fine of \$2,750,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior

criminal history, if any, of the defendant. Assistant United States Attorney Brendan T. Conway is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

The Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

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Tracy Morgan Arrested by the FBI Based on a Federal Indictment for Kidnapping, Conspiracy to Kidnap, as well as on a Felony Federal Gun Charge

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

Submitted at 11:53 AM August 19, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on August 18, 2011 released the following:

“Fugitive Wanted for Kidnapping, Conspiracy to Kidnap, and Federal Gun Charges Arrested in Texas by the FBI
DENVER— Tracy Morgan (aka Tre Dog), age 40, of Denver, was arrested Tuesday night (August 16, 2011) in Carrollton, Texas, by the FBI, U.S. Attorney John Walsh and FBI Special Agent in Charge James Yacone announced. Morgan is one of three men indicted by a federal grand jury on charges including kidnapping, conspiracy to kidnap, as well as felony federal gun charges. Morgan will be transferred from

Texas to Denver by U.S. Marshals. When he arrives in Denver he will appear in U.S. District Court in Denver before a Magistrate Judge where he will be advised of the charges pending against him. That court date has not yet been set.”

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Justice Department Opens Investigation into the Antelope Valley Stations of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 1:22 PM August 19, 2011

The Justice Department has opened a civil investigation into allegations of discriminatory policing by Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) members based in the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, Calif.