



## John Edwards, his attorneys deny conflicts of interest

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

Submitted at 5:05 PM October 17, 2011

Politico on October 17, 2011 released the following:

“Posted by Josh Gerstein

Defense attorneys for former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) are denying that there are any conflicts of interests that could preclude them from faithfully representing him in the federal prosecution he faces for allegedly receiving illegal, in-kind campaign contributions from donors who paid expenses of Edwards’s mistress and a child he fathered by her.

Edwards submitted a letter of his own to the court noting that he is an attorney, is aware that one of his new defense attorneys—Abbe Lowell—previously represented two possible witnesses in the case, and is fine with it. Lowell previously did legal work related to the same matter for former Edwards pollster and political aide Harrison Hickman, as well as Lisa Blue, the widow of Fred Baron—one of the donors who funded the mistress, Rielle Hunter.

“I have considered all the possibilities, and I do not see or believe there to be any conflict of interest or even potential conflict of interest between Mr. Lowell’s prior representations and his current representation of me,” Edwards wrote in an undated letter to Judge Catherine Eagles. “Even if this representation were a conflict of interest (which I do not believe it to be), after consultation with attorneys other than Mr. Lowell, I waive any such

**Former Owner of Airline Services Company Pleads Guilty in Scheme to Defraud Illinois-Based Ryan International Airlines**

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:39 PM October 17, 2011

A former owner and operator of a Florida-based airline services company pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in West Palm Beach, Fla., to participating in a kickback scheme to defraud Ryan International Airlines.

conflict.”

A court filing (posted [here](#)) by Edwards’s lawyers takes the same stance. “Mr. Edwards and his counsel have concluded that Mr. Lowell’s prior representation of other witnesses does not create an actual or potential conflict in any way,” Edwards attorneys Lowell, Christopher Man and James Cooney III wrote.

The defense acknowledges that Lowell “put together from available sources information concerning funds Mr. Baron had given to Rielle Hunter and/or Andrew Young,” an Edwards aide who initially claimed paternity of Hunter’s child but later said Edwards was the father. Lowell also “facilitated” prosecutors interview with Hickman in the fall of 2010, the filing says. The filing also acknowledges that Lowell had direct e-mail contact with Hunter, which was part of “an attempt, after-the-fact, to determine what funds were paid and whether Ms. Blue had any financial obligations after Mr. Baron’s death.”

One well-known member of Edwards’s defense team, North Carolina attorney Wade Smith, has agreed to leave the case after prosecutors said he acknowledged in 2009 that the money paid to Hunter was a personal gift to Edwards and that Edwards was aware of the financial support.

“This was a conflict of the government’s making,” the new defense filing insists, hinting that prosecutors raised the issue to push Smith, a renowned trial attorney, off the case.

The defense also argues that the 2009

**Federal Court Bars Newark, N.J., Man from Preparing Federal Tax Returns**

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 5:39 PM October 17, 2011

A federal court in New Jersey has permanently barred Luvander Hollaway from preparing federal tax returns for others.

**U.S. v. Jorge Wong**

(Antitrust Division: Upcoming Public Hearings)

Submitted at 10:00 AM October 17, 2011

Status hearing has been scheduled for April 18, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. Pacific

statement by Smith isn’t relevant to the charges knowingly accepted in-kind campaign donations in 2007 and 2008. The filing says Smith stepped aside so that “the truth about this conversation (if relevant)” can be demonstrated if he’s called as a witness at trial.

Prosecutors raised the possible conflicts last month in a fairly-common procedure that would likely preclude Edwards from raising the issues either at trial or on appeal. Their motion for a court inquiry into the matter also allowed them to detail in public some of the evidence and legal back-and-forth in the case. Eagles is expected to take up the issue at a hearing in Greensboro, N.C. next week.

One side note: Edwards’s personally-signed letter to the judge twice refers to Hickman, his longtime political adviser, as “Mr. Harrison.” His full name is Robert Harrison Hickman, according to a letter he submitted saying he has no problem with Lowell representing Edwards.”

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

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**U.S. v. Thomas Legault**

(Antitrust Division: Upcoming Public Hearings)

Submitted at 10:00 AM October 17, 2011

Status hearing has been scheduled for April 18, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. Pacific

**Robert J. Holley Named Special Agent in Charge of Indianapolis Division**

fbi (Current)

Submitted at 6:00 AM October 17, 2011

— Washington, D.C.

# NYPD Officer Michael Daragjati Charged by a Federal Criminal Complaint For Alleged Criminal Civil Rights Violation for False Arrest and Malicious Prosecution

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

Submitted at 1:03 PM October 17, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on October 17, 2011 released the following:

**“NYPD Officer Charged with Criminal Civil Rights Violation for False Arrest and Malicious Prosecution**

**Charges Include Attempted Violent Extortion and Attempted Insurance Fraud**

A criminal complaint was unsealed this morning in federal court in Brooklyn charging New York City Police Department Officer Michael Daragjati, an eight-year veteran of the NYPD, with violating the civil rights of an African-American victim by willfully arresting him and charging him with a crime without probable cause and on false pretenses, and for doing so based on racial animus. Daragjati is also charged with attempting and conspiring to commit violent extortion and committing wire fraud by making false statements to an auto insurance company.\* Daragjati was arrested this morning and has an initial appearance scheduled later this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge Joan M. Azrack at the U.S. Courthouse, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York.

The charges were announced by Loretta E. Lynch, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; Janice K. Fedarcyk, Assistant Director in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York Field Office; and Raymond W. Kelly, Commissioner, New York City Police Department.

**Willful Violation of Civil Rights Under Color of Law**

According to the complaint, during the evening of April 15, 2011, Daragjati stopped and frisked an individual in the Stapleton neighborhood of Staten Island. The stop and frisk revealed that the victim was not carrying a firearm or contraband. After the victim complained about his treatment during the stop and frisk, Daragjati arrested him. The complaint alleges that although the victim did not resist arrest, Daragjati falsely wrote in a police report that the victim had flailed his arms and kicked his legs during the arrest, purportedly justifying a resisting arrest charge. The following day, Daragjati swore out a complaint containing similar false statements, which was filed in Richmond County Criminal Court. As a result, the victim was held in custody for

approximately 36 hours.

The day he swore out the complaint, the government intercepted a telephone call between Daragjati and a friend. As detailed in the complaint, while referring to the victim’s arrest and prosecution, Daragjati told the friend that he had “fried another nigger.” The government subsequently intercepted several additional calls during which Daragjati allegedly used the word “nigger” to refer to African-Americans. In other intercepted calls Daragjati stated that he risked getting fired if he was caught “throw[ing] somebody a beating” and complained that it was too easy for police officers to get in trouble. He then admitted that he had been “skating it for a long time.”

**Extortion**

Daragjati operated a construction and snow removal business while off-duty. In March 2011, snowplow equipment which belonged to Daragjati was stolen from a truck parked near Daragjati’s residence. According to the complaint, a short time later Daragjati identified a person he believed was the thief and arranged to have him lured to a location in Staten Island. There, Daragjati and a group of other men allegedly attacked the suspected thief, punching him and threatening him with a handgun. Daragjati and the others told the suspected thief that he had to either return the snowplow equipment or pay \$5,000 to the equipment’s owner.

**Wire Fraud**

The complaint alleges that Daragjati directed a snowplow driver to intentionally damage a truck Daragjati owned, and then falsely represent to the driver’s auto insurer that the damage resulted from an accident while plowing snow. Daragjati also provided a false account to individuals he believed were employed by the driver’s auto insurer in an effort to receive payment from the insurer.

“The power to arrest—to deprive a citizen of liberty—must be used fairly, responsibly, and without bias. Motivated by base racial animus, the defendant allegedly abused this power and responsibility. Our system of justice depends on the public’s confidence that those who enforce the law also obey the law,” stated United States Attorney Lynch. “This office will vigorously prosecute those who would betray the trust placed in them to uphold the law honestly and without bias.” Ms. Lynch

expressed her appreciation to the FBI and the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau, the agencies responsible for leading the government’s investigation, and thanked the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office for its assistance.

FBI Assistant Director in-Charge Fedarcyk stated, “As charged in the complaint, this defendant’s egregious conduct caused both direct and indirect harm. He allegedly abused his position as a police officer to arrest someone under false pretenses, and committed fraud and violence. There were direct victims of these crimes. But the charged conduct also threatened to undermine public trust and respect for law enforcement. We who enforce the law are not above the law; in fact, we should be held to a higher standard.”

NYPD Commissioner Kelly stated, “I want to commend U.S. Attorney Loretta E. Lynch and her staff for bringing this case forward promptly and professionally, and NYPD Internal Affairs Chief Charles Campisi and his detectives who initiated this investigation and in doing so helped pave the way for prosecuting it.”

If convicted of the civil rights charge, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. If convicted of attempt to commit extortion, conspiracy to commit extortion or wire fraud, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 on each charge.

The government’s case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Paul Tuchmann, Amy Busa and Cristina Posa.

The Defendant:

**MICHAEL DARAGJATI**

Age: 32

\* The charges in the complaint are merely allegations, and the 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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# Issa to press FBI for “gunwalking” info

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

Submitted at 5:20 PM October 17, 2011

CBS News on October 17, 2011 released the following:

“By Sharyl Attkisson

(CBS News) WASHINGTON – The head of the House Oversight Committee, Rep. Darrell Issa, said he plans to send a letter to the FBI this week to ask about apparent discrepancies in the investigation of a murder related to “Fast and Furious,” the government’s controversial “gunwalking” case, CBS News investigative correspondent Sharyl Attkisson reports.

U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was gunned down near the U.S.-Mexico border last December, and at least two assault rifles from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ Fast and Furious case were found at the scene.

That focused blame on the controversial ATF operation that monitored suspects who trafficked the weapons instead of arresting them and seizing the guns.

[Holder subpoenaed for documents in “Gunwalker”](#)

[AG Holder responds to critics on Gunwalker](#)

[Leahy plans oversight hearing with Holder](#)

But 10 months after the murder, there are questions about how many weapons the

FBI recovered at the scene and other key details.

On CBS’ “Face the Nation” Sunday, Issa, R-Calif., told moderator Bob Schieffer there’s reason to ask whether there’s a third, missing weapon.

“When agents who were at Brian Terry’s funeral made statements to his mother indicating that there were three weapons ... then you look and say, well was there a third weapon at the scene?” Issa asked. “Were there additional people who escaped with weapons?”

Issa: Holder hiding Fast and Furious facts  
[Dem: Issa is on “Fast & Furious” witch hunt](#)

[Congressional investigators seek DOD records](#)

Also, a ballistics report turned over to Congress mentions just two rifles, saying it “could not be determined” if one of them fired the bullet that killed Terry.

There’s also talk of a third weapon, called an “SKS” rifle, in secret recordings obtained by CBS News. In the following partial transcript of a March 2011 conversation, the lead ATF case agent on Fast and Furious is speaking to a gun dealer who cooperated in selling weapons to suspects.

Gun dealer: “There’s three weapons.”

ATF agent: “There’s three weapons.”

Dealer: “I know that.”

Agent: “And yes, there’s serial numbers for all three.”

Dealer: “That is correct.”

Agent: “Two of them came from the store.”

Dealer: “I understand that.”

Agent: “There’s an SKS that I don’t think came from ... Dallas or Texas or something like that.”

The FBI wouldn’t comment but has implied in the past that there was no third gun. Issa said he’s seeking clarity and that, until key questions are answered, it fuels speculation.

The FBI has kept nearly everything about Terry’s murder secret, saying that releasing anything would jeopardize their investigation, now beginning its eleventh month.”

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

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# FBI Arrests ‘jockey’ Christopher James Woods in an Alleged \$2.5m Fraud

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

Submitted at 10:06 AM October 17, 2011

The Sydney Morning Herald on October 16, 2011 released the following:

“Neil Mercer

AN AUSTRALIAN man who claimed to be a former champion jockey has been arrested in the United States and charged with a \$2.5 million fraud.

Christopher James Woods, 52, was arrested by the FBI in Greenwich, Connecticut, and extradited to Los Angeles where he appeared in the US District Court.

In an affidavit to the court, FBI Special Agent Ty Thomas said Mr Woods [] had used some of the money to pay \$1 million off his American Express card. It is alleged the card was used to buy luxury goods, food, travel and entertainment.

The Sun-Herald has learnt that Chris Woods, as he is generally known, has for more than 30 years told people in Australia and overseas that he was a

successful jockey and he had inside information on horse races.

In the early 1980s he told the Double Bay restaurant owner Tony Eustace there was a “sure thing” running at Murray Bridge in South Australia.

Mr Eustace, who was murdered in 1985 during the Sydney gang wars, gave \$10,000 in cash to a friend called Frank Webb, who went to the race track where he met Mr Woods.

Mr Webb told The-Sun Herald last week he became suspicious when three other punters turned up, each with \$10,000, to put on the “sure thing” at odds of about 4-1.

He said he declined to put Mr Eustace’s money on the horse but the other punters went ahead. The horse did not win.

Mr Webb said he had had nothing to do with Mr Woods since then.

Special Agent Thomas’s affidavit states that in mid-2007, Mr Woods’s alleged co-conspirators, Henrik and Hamlet Sardariani, told the manager of a company

called Bith, LLC, they were buying a hospital in Los Angeles County and needed \$2.5 million to be placed into a secure account for 30 days.

Then, \$1.9 million was transferred to Mr Woods’s US bank account. The court heard more than \$1 million was used to pay off Mr Woods’s Amex card.

An FBI spokeswoman said Mr Woods had been arrested on August 23. He is due to reappear in court later this month.”

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

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# The World's First Non Optical FBI Appendix F Certified Fingerprint Sensor

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

Submitted at 5:13 PM October 17, 2011

Market Watch on October 17, 2011 released the following: "SPARTANBURG, S.C., Oct. 17, 2011 / PRNewswire via COMTEX/ — Integrated Biometrics, a South Carolina based innovator in the biometric fingerprint sensor market announced today that they have launched a new FBI certified, two-finger scanner for mobile applications. Named Watson, the device has been tested by The MITRE Corporation and was recently approved for the FBI's IAFIS Appendix F Certified Product List. Watson is the world's first non-optical scanner to achieve this level of certification.

Weighing in at less than a 1/4 lb. and only 70 mm X 63 mm X 32 mm in size, Watson is the smallest and lightest weight Appendix F, FBI certified, two-finger scanner in the world. Watson's unique performance enables it to serve as an enrollment and/or verification sensor for single or multiple finger applications.

Integrated Biometrics recognized our government's need for a FBI certified, light-weight, durable, and mobile biometric fingerprint solution to help our

war fighters, law enforcement officers and border patrol agents identify people who are threats to the United States. Watson provides unique benefits compared to existing sensors including a greater than 50% reduction in size and weight, ability to perform in direct sunlight, rugged durability and efficient use with no need to clean the scanner surface of latent prints. Watson can be embedded in mobile devices or plugged into desktop, laptop or pad type computers through its USB connection.

Watson utilizes Integrated Biometrics' patented LES technology. LES technology uses a highly engineered polymer film that will only read a live fingerprint and works well with dirty fingers. Integrated Biometrics produces the Watson in both an embedded version and a standalone version and includes a complete SDK.

Appendix F certification is the most demanding live-scan certification on the market today and is conducted by The MITRE Corporation under strict guidance and oversight by the FBI.

About Integrated Biometrics  
Integrated Biometrics is the developer and manufacturer of patented fingerprint biometric technologies including our LES Film and its application with thin film

transistors. For the past decade IB has designed, manufactured and supplied patented LES film sensors and world class algorithms in a range of demanding applications including physical and logical access control in high security and harsh environments for commercial, government, military / law enforcement and civil applications around the globe.

Headquartered in Spartanburg, SC, Integrated Biometrics was founded in 2002 as an alternative solution to the commonly used optical and silicon technologies and has facilities in South Korea and South Carolina.  
www.integratedbiometrics.com , or 1.888.840.8034."

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

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## Mark A. Morgan Named Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's El Paso Division

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

Submitted at 12:57 PM October 17, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation on October 17, 2011 released the following: "Director Robert S. Mueller, III has appointed Mark A. Morgan as the special agent in charge of the El Paso Division. Since 2010, he has served as chief of the Strategic Information and Operations Center, Critical Incident Response Group (CIRG).

Mr. Morgan entered on duty as a special agent in 1996 and was assigned to the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office. While there, he was a member of the Eurasian Organized Crime Task Force, the crisis response squad, and the SWAT team. He is a certified tactical instructor.

In 2002, Mr. Morgan became a supervisory special agent and served as a crisis management coordinator in the Crisis Management Unit in CIRG. In 2005, Mr. Morgan returned to Los Angeles, where he supervised an FBI-led

Hispanic gang task force that focused on the emerging presence of two organized and violent transnational gangs in Southern California: Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and 18th Street. While in Los Angeles, he also supervised the critical incident response squad, which has administrative and operational oversight of the division's critical incident response resources.

Mr. Morgan was selected in 2007 to serve as the assistant section chief of the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime Branch, where he managed the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Units and the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program. In 2008, he became the FBI's deputy on-scene commander in Baghdad, Iraq, where he was responsible for all FBI personnel deployed to Iraq under the auspices of the Counterterrorism Division.

In 2009, he was assigned to the New Haven Field Office as the assistant special agent in charge with responsibilities for the criminal, critical incident response,

surveillance, and aviation programs.

Mr. Morgan was an active-duty member and reservist in the U.S. Marine Corps. Before joining the FBI, he served as a deputy sheriff in Platte County, Missouri, and as an officer in the Los Angeles Police Department. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Central Missouri State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City."

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

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# Manuel Garcia Pleads Guilty to a Federal Indictment Charging Him With Federal Bank Fraud Charges

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

Submitted at 12:53 PM October 17, 2011

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

“California Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Bank Fraud Charges

ALBUQUERQUE— This morning in Albuquerque federal court, Manuel Garcia, 69, who now resides in Los Angeles, California, entered a guilty plea to an indictment charging him with six counts of bank fraud. At sentencing, which has yet to be scheduled, Garcia faces a maximum sentence of 30 years’ imprisonment, five years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Garcia will pay restitution in the amount of \$585,243.59 to US Bank of Albuquerque, formerly known as First Community Bank (FCB). Garcia remains on conditions of release under pretrial supervision pending his sentencing hearing.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Garcia was indicted and charged with six counts of bank fraud on June 7, 2011. At the time of the offenses charged in the

indictment, Garcia was president of Keyworth Mortgage Funding Group (Keyworth), a business incorporated in New Mexico and Arizona that originated residential mortgage loans and sold them to investors such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae). The indictment generally alleged that, between August 2009 and May 2010, Garcia, fraudulently obtained money from FCB by falsely representing that the funds were to be used to finance new residential mortgage loans. According to the indictment, Garcia actually used the funds to pay Keyworth’s debt to Fannie Mae.

In his plea agreement, Garcia acknowledged that Keyworth maintained a line of credit with FCB from which it would obtain money advances to finance the origination of mortgage loans. Garcia admitted that he devised a scheme pursuant to which he submitted requests to FCB for advances for non-existent mortgages, using property addresses of prior clients. Specifically, Garcia submitted the names, addresses, and requested loan amounts of Keyworth’s prior residential mortgage clients to support his requests for advances. By

falsely representing the properties as new mortgages, Garcia caused FCB to wire transfer the requested advances to Keyworth’s bank account in Arizona. Garcia admitted receiving six advances in the aggregate amount of \$1,279,650 by submitting fraudulent requests. Because Garcia repaid \$535,450 with interest to FCB as if they had been legitimate loans, that sum is not included in the restitution that Garcia will have to pay.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tara C. Neda.”

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

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## Robert J. Holley Named Special Agent in Charge of Indianapolis Division

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

Submitted at 10:35 AM October 17, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation on October 17, 2011 released the following: “Director Robert S. Mueller, III has named Robert J. Holley special agent in charge of the FBI’s Indianapolis Division. Mr. Holley most recently served as a section chief in the Counterterrorism Division at FBI Headquarters, where he was involved in the management of the FBI’s U.S. based international terrorism investigations.

Mr. Holley began his career as a special agent in 1995, and reported to the Chicago Division after graduation from New Agents Training in Quantico, Virginia.

While in Chicago, he was assigned to investigate domestic and international terrorism matters. He also served as a

member of the Chicago Division’s SWAT team and a special agent bomb technician. During his time in the division, he was promoted to supervisory special agent and supervised an international terrorism squad.

In November 2005, Mr. Holley was promoted and assigned to FBI Headquarters as a unit chief in the Counterterrorism Division. He was deployed to Yemen, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Tanzania, and Israel in support of the FBI’s number one priority, counterterrorism.

Mr. Holley transferred back to the Chicago Division, where he served as assistant special agent in charge of the National Security Branch from 2008-2010.

Prior to his FBI career, he served in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer.

Mr. Holley is a native of Indiana. He graduated from Peru High School in 1977, and from Ball State University in 1981. He and his wife Toni have one son, Dakota.”

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

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## Mark A. Morgan Named Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s El Paso Division

fbi (Current)

— Washington, D.C.



# FBI looks into San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) Funds

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

Submitted at 10:11 AM October 17, 2011

My San Antonio on October 15, 2011

released the following:

“Money allegedly was steered away from district.

By Lindsay Kastner

A federal investigation is under way into the San Antonio Independent School District, where this week two top employees resigned amid allegations they steered about \$800,000 in federal money to businesses owned by family and friends.

Eduardo Elizondo and Tony Mayhan together allegedly guided more than \$300,000 to companies owned by their wives, and Mayhan also apparently steered other maintenance and cleaning jobs to other individuals.

“The FBI confirms that we are conducting an inquiry into the allegations of misappropriations of grant moneys,” special agent Erik Vasys said Friday.

He declined to say whether the federal probe is related to Elizondo and Mayhan, but did say the department is working in

conjunction with the Texas Education Agency.

On Monday the district announced the results of its internal investigation into Elizondo and Mayhan. The pair, who worked in the department of federal programs, spent at least three years funneling federal money to their wives’ companies and others using what SAISD Superintendent Robert Durón described as a “well calculated” scheme.

SAISD attorney Pablo Escamilla said Friday that multiple laws might have been broken.

“The possibility of a conflict of interest, the violation of bidding laws — both state and federal — those are the two obvious ones,” he said.

SAISD spokeswoman Leslie Price said district officials were unaware of an FBI investigation.

“We haven’t been informed of that, but we have been working closely with TEA,” she said.

The district requested an audit by TEA and help to establish which vendor payments were legitimate and in which instances, if any, the district might have to

return federal funds.

“We’ve been working and communicating with the TEA, and they’ve been determining the next steps,” Price said.

SAISD sent the agency a copy of its preliminary audit, TEA spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe said.

“We’re not actually doing an audit at this point,” she said. “The district has their internal auditor looking into it at this point. ... And we’ll wait until we get their final report before we decide what to do.””

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

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# Ahmed Mohamed Abugroon Charged with Health Care Fraud

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

Submitted at 12:55 PM October 17, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation on October 15, 2011 released the following:

“Hogsett Announces Indianapolis Man Charged with Medicaid Fraud

INDIANAPOLIS— Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Ahmed Mohamed Abugroon, 56, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was charged with health care fraud following an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Indiana Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Abugroon operated Pacific Transportation, which provided transportation services to Indiana Medicaid patients, and the information alleges that Abugroon made false and fraudulent representations to the Indiana Medicaid Program in order to secure reimbursements at a higher rate than he was entitled. Specifically, it is alleged that, between January 2005 and February 2008, Abugroon received \$24,869.81 from the Indiana Medicaid Program to

which he knew he was not entitled.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas E. Surmacz, who is prosecuting the case for the United States, Abugroon faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

An information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.”

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[mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com](mailto:mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com) or at one of the offices listed above.

# Murder Suspect Arrested

(U.S. Marshals Service News)

Submitted at 12:08 PM October 17, 2011

October 17, 2011 - Wanted fugitive John Pritchard was found and arrested in New Mexico in connection to the murder of his estranged girlfriend Robin Bailey, in Akron, Ohio. At approximately 11 p.m. on Friday October 14, 2011, John Pritchard was arrested in Taos, New Mexico.