



Federal prosecutors build case against alleged leaders of Yonkers' Cliff Street Gangsters

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

Submitted at 9:07 AM April 11, 2012

lohud.com on April 10, 2012 released the following:

“Written by

ERIK SHILLING

Nine reputed members of the Cliff Street Gangsters have admitted to conspiring to sell drugs and to violently keeping rivals at bay in the Nodine Hill section of Yonkers, as prosecutors continue to build their case against a chief enforcer of the group.

An indictment detailing some of the men's activity was unsealed last August during a sweep of dozens of city gangsters. Since then guilty pleas for many of the reputed Cliff Street Gangsters members have trickled in. Prosecutors have now turned their focus to the gang's leaders like 21-year-old Preston “Peanut” Hardy, who, as top gang enforcer, is accused of committing multiple shootings against rival gangs, authorities said. Few, if any, of the men connected to the Cliff Street Gangsters graduated from high school, but now seven — the youngest of whom is 18 — face up to life in prison when they are sentenced in U.S. District Court in White Plains later this year.

The latest guilty plea was Monday, when 26-year-old Gene “J-Biz” Thomas, pleaded guilty to two counts of drug charges. He faces up to 40 years in prison when he is sentenced July 9.

At their plea hearings, some of the men spoke plainly of gang life.

“During the conspiracy, there was a time that I carried guns to protect the money I made,” Miguel “Corleone” Marquez, 26, said in January.

Another reputed gangster, Brandon “Big Boy” Williams, implied in his plea hearing that guns were a necessary part of the trade.

“At times, they would be threatening me so I one time had a gun and displayed it to one of these guys,” Williams said March 26, referring to rival gang members. Neither Williams nor Marquez completed

high school. Both pleaded guilty pleaded guilty to drug and firearms charges, including conspiring to distribute 50 kilograms or more of marijuana. They face up to life in prison at sentencing.

Prosecutors have said that Cliff Street Gangsters, known commonly as the CSG, operated for at least six years selling crack, marijuana, and other drugs and threatening rivals who encroached on their turf with guns that were stashed in secret locations known only to the gang's members.

Other stashes, for the drugs themselves — like crack, which was packed in bags known as “twists” — were in members' mouths, underwear and other locations, prosecutors said, including nearby mailboxes.

Competition for buyers of the twists led to numerous violent clashes with nearby gangs, including two based in the Schlobohm Housing Project, the Strip Boys and the Grimy M———, or GMF, according to prosecutors. A fourth gang, the Nodine Hill-based Elm Street Wolves, was CSG's ally in many of the clashes, which went on for years and included a number of beatings and shootings.

“We went after the biggest folks we could find,” U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said last August, before another law enforcement official estimated that around 20 gangs operated in Yonkers.

Reputed Cliff Street Gangster Joshua Jenkins, who pleaded guilty March 29 to conspiracy and firearms charges, said that CSG moved more than 220 pounds of marijuana between 2005 and 2011.

Among other things, Jenkins was accused of driving other gun-toting gang members around in his mother's car.

“When I was doing all this, I knew that I was wrong,” Jenkins told Judge Cathy Seibel at his plea hearing, according to court records.

Some of the reputed gangsters who pleaded guilty included a few who admitted to having drug abuse problems themselves.

“I smoked weed, and I popped pills, and I drink,” said Michael “Mike-Mike” Glover, 21, adding that he spent time in treatment in 2008. Glover faces up a minimum 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to drug and firearms charges March 29.

He admitted then that he conspired to deal drugs from 2005 until his arrest in June 2011.

“Until I got caught,” he said.

A spokesman for U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara declined to comment on trial strategy or whether the cases against three men who haven't pleaded guilty — James “Tone” Glover, Audai “Buck” Howard, and Preston Hardy — were in negotiations with prosecutors.

But David Gordon, the lawyer for Hardy, said that he expected the case to go to trial. No dates have been set, but jury selection in the case could start later this month.

All the defendants remained in prison without bail Tuesday.”

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

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John Edwards gambles on NC jury to avoid prison

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

Submitted at 9:18 AM April 11, 2012

Associated Press on April 10, 2012 released the following:

“By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — As a young personal injury lawyer in North Carolina, John Edwards earned a reputation for turning down multimillion-dollar settlement offers on bets that jurors would award his clients more money at the end of a trial.

“The twelve souls who spend full days, full weeks, or sometimes long months sitting only a few feet from you get to know you almost as well as you know yourself,” Edwards wrote in “Four Trials,” his 2003 autobiography. “They take in every movement, fact, word, hesitation, and glance. My faith in the wisdom of ordinary people took root in the mill towns of my youth. But the juries of my adulthood deepened that faith.”

Now the former U.S. senator and two-time Democratic presidential candidate is making the biggest courtroom gamble of his life — that a jury will clear him of alleged campaign finance violations and keep him from being sent to prison.

Jury selection for Edwards’ criminal trial is set to begin Thursday in the Middle District of North Carolina. The sprawling 24-county federal judicial district includes the town where he grew up, Robbins, as well as dozens of other small communities where old textile mills now sit idle but evangelical churches are routinely full.

U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Eagles, who was appointed in 2010 by President Barack Obama, will preside. She said she expects the proceedings to last about six weeks.

Edwards, who declined an interview request through his lawyers, was indicted by a federal grand jury last year on six felony and misdemeanor counts related to nearly \$1 million secretly provided by wealthy campaign donors to help hide his pregnant mistress, Rielle Hunter, as he sought the White House in 2008. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and as much as \$1.5 million in fines.

Before his indictment, Edwards rejected a potential plea agreement with federal prosecutors that would have allowed him to serve as little as six months and keep his law license, according to two people with direct knowledge of the offer. More than a year after his wife, Elizabeth, died of cancer, Edwards is now a single parent

of two children, ages 13 and 11, who live with their father at the family’s gated estate outside Chapel Hill. Eldest daughter Cate Edwards, 30, is a lawyer who married last year.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina law school, John Edwards made his fortune handling medical malpractice and corporate negligence cases before turning to politics following the death of his 16-year-old son Wade in a 1996 auto accident. Edwards was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998 and was John Kerry’s running mate in 2004. His law license has been listed as inactive for more than a decade.

For his part, Edwards has said he is looking forward to getting back in front of a jury, even though he’ll be the one at the defense table.

“After all these years, I finally get my day in court and people get to hear my side of this, and what actually happened,” Edwards said on the steps of the federal courthouse in Greensboro following a pretrial hearing in October. “And what I know with complete and absolute certainty is I didn’t violate campaign laws and I never for a second believed I was violating campaign laws.”

Regardless of the outcome, the coming trial in *USA v. Johnny Reid Edwards* is sure to set legal precedents for what constitutes a campaign donation under federal law.

A key issue will be whether Edwards knew about the payments made on his behalf by his national campaign finance chairman, the late Texas lawyer Fred Baron, and campaign donor Rachel “Bunny” Mellon, an heiress and socialite who is now 101 years old. Both had already given Edwards’ campaign the maximum \$2,300 individual contribution allowed by federal law.

Edwards denies having known about the money, which paid for private jets, luxury hotels and Hunter’s medical care. Prosecutors will seek to prove he sought and directed the payments to cover up his affair, protect his public image as a “family man” and keep his presidential hopes viable.

Defense attorneys and prosecutors declined to comment about likely trial issues. But hundreds of pages of pre-trial motions and hours of oral arguments in recent months offer insights into their likely strategies.

Abbe Lowell, Edwards’ lead lawyer, contends that even had Edwards known about the secret payments, his actions wouldn’t amount to a crime under federal

law because his motivation was keeping his wife from learning of the affair, not influencing the outcome of an election. Lowell has said in court that the government’s case relies on flawed legal reasoning, that the grand jury process was tainted and that the Republican federal prosecutor who led the investigation, now-congressional candidate George Holding, was motivated by partisanship.

Lowell has derided what he calls the government’s “crazy” interpretation of federal law whereby money that was never handled by the candidate nor deposited in a campaign account is being defined as campaign contributions.

The Federal Election Commission reviewed Edwards’ case and declined to seek charges or issue a fine. The defense is likely to call two former FEC commissioners as expert witnesses.

Edwards’ legal position is also supported in a court brief filed by the Center for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a campaign finance watchdog group.

“In the United States, we don’t prosecute people for being loathsome, we prosecute them for violating the law,” CREW executive director Melanie Sloan said this week. “The real reason for these payments is obvious: To prevent Mr. Edwards’ cancer-stricken wife from finding out about the affair. This makes him despicable, but not a criminal.”

Much of the money at issue was funneled to Andrew Young, a former campaign aide once so close to Edwards that Andrews initially claimed paternity of his boss’s illegitimate child. Young and his wife invited the pregnant Hunter to live in their home near Chapel Hill and later embarked with her on a cross-country odyssey as they sought to elude tabloid reporters trying to expose the candidate’s extramarital affair.

Young later fell out with Edwards and wrote an unflattering tell-all book, “The Politician.” Young and Hunter recently ended a two-year legal battle over ownership of a sex tape the mistress recorded with Edwards during the campaign, agreeing to a settlement that dictates that copies of the video will be destroyed.

Young is expected to be a witness for the prosecution, while the defense is likely to call Hunter to testify. Two of the lawyers who represented Hunter in her civil suit against the former aide joined Edwards’ legal team last month. After years of adamant public denials, Edwards



Records detail how police made 12,000-pound marijuana bust in Wyoming, more suspects charged

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

Submitted at 8:59 AM April 11, 2012

MLive.com on April 10, 2012 released the following:

“By John Agar

GRAND RAPIDS — The number of suspects charged in the October seizure of 12,000 pounds of marijuana has grown to nine with a recent arrest.

Four people were charged in the original bust, but federal prosecutors have obtained indictments against five others after a police raid at a warehouse in the 3700-block of Linden Avenue SE, near Eastern Avenue SE and 36th Street in Wyoming.

Recent court filings provide a look at the investigation as it unfolded in Wyoming.

The marijuana, brought here by a semi-truck, was packaged for sale to distributors.

A second superseding indictment names nine suspects: Adrian Nunez-Gonzalez, Alex Parra, Anthony Castro Gonzales, Tony Frank Disla-Santiago, Flavio Ramos, Angel Luis De Leon-DeJesus, a.k.a. Jose Saul Alamos-Gallarzo, Angel Eduardo Santos-Rodriguez, a.k.a. Changa, Patrick O’Meara Jr., and Samuel Granillo-Herrera.

The indictment says that the defendants, from 2009 through Oct. 21, 2011, conspired to possess and distribute 1,000 pounds or more of marijuana. The indictment asks that the defendants forfeit \$50 million as proceeds of drug trafficking, court records showed.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says most big busts here are measured in hundreds of pounds.

The marijuana seized here had a wholesale value of \$7 million, with a street value of \$12 million.

Police immediately arrested Castro Gonzales, Disla-Santiago, Ramos DeLeon-DeJesus, while others were charged as the investigation continued.

Attorneys for two of the defendants filed a request that evidence be suppressed based on an alleged illegal search of a trailer that contained marijuana. U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney determined the search was proper.

In a 19-page opinion, he outlined the investigation that began with information that a large shipment of marijuana was en route to Wyoming.

A DEA special agent in Indianapolis relayed information to investigators here

that a semi-truck was headed to a specific location in Wyoming likely loaded with a large amount of marijuana.

The DEA, along with the Metropolitan Enforcement Team, Kent County Narcotics Enforcement Team, Grand Rapids police’s Vice Unit and Wyoming police, began conducting surveillance at the warehouse around 7:15 a.m. on Oct. 20.

Just before 8 a.m., the semi-truck showed up at Linden Avenue. Three men in a black Dodge pickup across the street walked over and talked to the driver of the semi, who got back in the truck and maneuvered the trailer to the loading dock across the street.

DEA special agent Scott Syme could not see what occurred, but saw the trailer shift, suggesting that it was being emptied. The semi left an hour later. Police soon stopped it.

The driver, who voluntarily opened the empty trailer for police, told investigators he only used the restroom at the warehouse. The men who met him had to get keys, and escorted him through the warehouse until a bathroom could finally be found.

He told police he had no idea what was unloaded.

Meanwhile, a white work van showed up at 8:15 a.m. at Linden Avenue, coming and going throughout the morning and afternoon. A silver Dodge Ram pickup showed up minutes later. One of the men got into the silver pickup. Police followed it to a residence in Kentwood before it returned to the warehouse hauling a trailer.

It went inside the warehouse. A red Chevrolet pickup truck also showed up. Surveillance teams followed the black truck to the interchange of I-196 and I-94 in Berrien County, where police stopped the truck for a traffic violation. Police found no marijuana.

Late that afternoon, a gray minivan showed up at Linden Avenue. At 8:10 p.m., it left for a trip to McDonald’s.

Just after midnight, the red pickup with trailer, the gray minivan and white van all left the warehouse. Police said the storage trailer was obviously weighted down. Police followed the three vehicles through Kentwood, hoping to determine the destination and chain of distribution of the marijuana.

Then, the three vehicles turned down a dead-end street, turned around without

stopping and continued south on Kalamazoo Avenue. It’s a counter-surveillance move, and told police that they had been discovered.

Police pulled all three vehicles over based on probable cause the vehicles contained drugs. Police found 8,316 pounds in the trailer.

“Here, law enforcement officers had probable cause to seize and arrest defendants for a felony when they were pulled over,” Maloney wrote in his opinion upholding evidence gathered in the search.

“Defendants’ attempts to characterize the seizure solely as a traffic stop is not persuasive,” the judge wrote. “The officers had probable cause to believe that the drivers of the three vehicles were committing a felony by transporting a large quantity of marijuana.

“Based on the accuracy of the information received from a fellow federal agent (in Indianapolis), observations at the warehouse, and the manner in which the three vehicles drove away from the warehouse, the officers could reasonably believe that the rest of the information, specifically that marijuana was contained in the shipment, was also accurate.”

The judge also determined that one of the defendants gave consent to the search of the trailer, which did not have a registration plate.”

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Federal anti-hacking prosecutions reined in by appeals court ruling

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

Submitted at 9:30 AM April 11, 2012

MercuryNews.com on April 10, 2012 released the following:

“By Howard Mintz

Warning that merely looking up sports scores or online dating services at work could lead to a prison cell, a federal appeals court on Tuesday reined in the federal government’s power to prosecute employees who stray from their bosses’ rules on using company computers.

In a case against a Danville man, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found the Justice Department had gone too far in enforcing a nearly 30-year-old computer hacking law, expressing concern that on-the-job “minor dalliances” with Facebook and Google “would become federal crimes.”

The 9th Circuit, in its 9-to-2 ruling, limited the scope of the 1984 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, saying it cannot be used to prosecute someone simply for the unauthorized use of information on their workplace computers. The decision sets up a possible showdown in the U.S. Supreme Court because federal courts around the country have ruled otherwise.

The case has been closely watched by digital civil liberties groups, which have warned that prosecutors can bring criminal charges for violating routine corporate rules on the use of work computers. Redwood City-based Oracle, however, sided with the government in the appeal, saying in court papers that the anti-hacking law may be needed to punish employees who steal inside information.

But the court majority clearly was concerned that a heavy hand could slap cuffs on minor offenders. “Minds have wandered since the beginning of time and the computer gives employees new ways to procrastinate, by

g-chatting with friends, playing games, shopping or watching sports highlights,” Chief Judge Alex Kozinski wrote. “Basing criminal liability on violations of private computer use policies can transform whole categories of otherwise innocuous behavior into federal crimes simply because a computer is involved.”

The case centered on the prosecution of David Nosal, an executive at Korn/Ferry International, a San Francisco corporate recruiting firm. Federal prosecutors alleged that Nosal and co-workers illegally foraged in the company’s database for information to establish a rival company and charged him with trade secrets theft and violations of the anti-hacking law.

Even with the 9th Circuit ruling, several charges remain against Nosal, including the trade secrets allegations. But the charges of unauthorized use of a computer under the anti-hacking law became the focus of the 9th Circuit legal showdown.

Nosal’s lawyers, backed by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, argued that employees should not face criminal prosecution under anti-hacking statutes when they have a right to use their company computers, but violate corporate policy on the type of information accessed on those computers. They insisted such a broad reading of the law could expose employees to criminal investigations for routine violations of corporate policies.

Orin Kerr, a George Washington University law professor and expert on the statute, said the 9th Circuit got it right. “What Kozinski is saying is that under the government’s view, most people are criminals,” Kerr said. “It’s an important victory for Internet rights. It limits the power of the government to prosecute people for innocent activity.”

The Justice Department declined to comment. But government lawyers argued

in the appeal that Nosal was prosecuted only because he was accused of using his workplace computer to steal his employer’s secrets. They denied a wider threat of prosecuting people for surfing the Web at work.

Two 9th Circuit judges agreed, dissenting from the ruling.

“This case has nothing to do with playing sudoku, checking email, fibbing on dating sites or any of the other activities the majority rightly values,” Judge Barry Silverman wrote Tuesday.

“It has everything to do with stealing an employer’s valuable information to set up a competing business with the purloined data, siphoned away from the victim, knowing such access and use were prohibited.””

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Alabama Tax Preparation Business Owner and Five Preparers Indicted for Tax Fraud Scheme

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 10:43 AM April 11, 2012

Bruce King, the owner of a Montgomery, Ala., tax preparation business, and five tax preparers from Montgomery have been charged with conspiring to defraud the United States and aiding in the filing of false tax returns, the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced today. A federal grand jury in

Montgomery returned an indictment on March 28, 2012, charging Bruce King, Jenika Williams, Antoinette Djonret, Nakesha Donaldson, Angela Smith and Vonecia Orum with participating in a scheme to file false tax returns. Williams, Djonret, Donaldson and Smith have also been charged with wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. The indictment was unsealed yesterday.



25-year term sought for Tarek Mehanna

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

Submitted at 9:39 AM April 11, 2012

Boston.com on April 11, 2012 released the following:

“By Milton J. Valencia

They called him an angry, callous man, obsessed with violence and killing Americans.

Saying he led a double life as a would-be terrorist, federal prosecutors recommended Tuesday that convicted Al Qaeda supporter Tarek Mehanna be sentenced to 25 years in prison, a term they said would protect the public and punish him for committing “among the most serious crimes a person can commit.”

The prison term, prosecutors said, should be followed by a term of supervised probation for as long as Mehanna remains in the United States.

“To his family and community, he was a dutiful and scholarly young man, but to his close friends and online contacts, he was a proponent of violence as a means of achieving his political goals,” the prosecutors said, adding, “The nature of Mehanna’s crimes highlights his dangerousness and the resulting need to separate him from society.”

The prosecutors’ recommendation differs starkly from the life term Mehanna faced under federal sentencing guidelines, as calculated by US probation officials.

And yet the recommendation nearly quadruples the sentence of 6 1/2 that Mehanna’s lawyers had asked for, a term they said better reflects Mehanna’s conviction and the scope of his crimes.

US District Court Judge George A. O’Toole Jr., who presided over Mehanna’s nine-week trial, is to hand down a sentence Thursday during a hearing in which Mehanna is expected to

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acknowledged paternity of Hunter’s daughter, Frances Quinn Hunter, in 2010. The girl, now 4, lives with her mother in Charlotte.

It has not yet been decided whether Edwards, who was once known for his ability to charm jurors, will testify in his own defense.

But if he does take the witness stand, the case could hinge on which admitted liar the jury chooses to believe — Edwards, who appeared on national television to deny having an affair with Hunter and fathering her child, or Young, who claimed in a written statement that the baby was his.

“Juries seek the truth, and even as a (law) clerk I learned that neither silver-tongued

address the judge. On Monday, Mehanna wrote O’Toole asking him to consider his work as a teacher and a pharmacist to determine who he truly is.

The 29-year-old is a US citizen from Sudbury who was living with his parents and who planned to work at a medical center in Saudi Arabia before his arrest in 2008 and his indictment a year later on terrorism charges.

He was found guilty in December of charges of conspiring to kill in a foreign country and to support terrorists and of lying to investigators in a terrorism investigation.

Prosecutors said Mehanna traveled to Yemen in 2004 seeking terrorism training so that he could carry out jihad, or holy war, against US soldiers in Iraq. He failed to find a camp but returned with a determination to support Al Qaeda by promoting the group’s ideology on the Internet. He translated texts and distributed videos glorifying violence including suicide bombings against US soldiers.

Mehanna has maintained through lawyers, his family members, and supporters — who wrote about 100 pages of letters to O’Toole asking for mercy — that he was a budding scholar who embraced a strict interpretation of his religion, but who never worked with Al Qaeda. His views were protected under the First Amendment, he said.

He has sought to draw a line between his opposition to the US foreign policy and forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, by violence if necessary, and the type of indiscriminate killings carried out by Al Qaeda terrorists.

But prosecutors argued in court filings Tuesday that Mehanna is no different than Al Qaeda members who carry out suicide bombings, saying he sought training in

cunning nor hapless bungling will find it for them,” Edwards wrote in “Four Trials.” “So the best lawyer must be honest and in a way plain in answering any doubts or confusions, and you must know the facts — all of them — for otherwise the jury will lose faith in you. As it should.””

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Yemen. When he failed to find a camp, he distributed videos promoting suicide bombings and even beheadings, saying he hoped they would cause others to “donate blood” to the opposition of US forces.

The prosecutors pointed to congressional reports stating that America’s war on terrorism has moved to the Internet, where Al Qaeda has worked to spread its message and recruit members. Mehanna supported that cause, the prosecutors said.

What is worse, the prosecutors said, is that Mehanna has refused to admit guilt and has instead sought to make himself out to be a martyr.

“He has consistently attempted to characterize himself as a victim of government excess and a symbol of First Amendment rights,” prosecutors said. “He is a defiant individual who now appears eager to cultivate a new identity as a symbol of defiance.””

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Federal Prosecutors: Indiana, California men accused of enticing minors to commit lewd acts used same website

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

Submitted at 9:36 AM April 11, 2012

Daily Reporter on April 10, 2012 released the following:

“CHARLES WILSON Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana man who prosecutors fear may have coerced hundreds of teenage boys into performing sexual acts for him over the Internet and a California teacher accused of exchanging nude photos with girls as young as 13 used the same website to meet their victims, officials and court documents say.

The website, omegle.com, offers users random, anonymous one-on-one chats with strangers. The home page warns users not to act “inappropriately” though it acknowledges that others may. The website says it is not for use by children under 13 and individuals under age 18 should not use it without a parent or guardian’s permission.

“We’re certainly familiar with the site, yes,” said John Shehan, program manager for the CyberTipline at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which takes tips about alleged child exploitation and passes them on to law enforcement. “We have received several hundred cyber tips related to this site, specifically.”

Federal prosecutors in Indiana allege in court documents that Richard Leon Finkbiner, 39, used the website to contact a 14-year-old Michigan boy and another in Maryland, whom he then secretly recorded performing sexual acts during video chats. He allegedly threatened to post those videos on gay pornography sites unless they made more videos for his private use. Both boys initially went along with Finkbiner’s demands and delayed

telling their relatives or guardians, prosecutors said.

When investigators first examined the Brazil man’s computer, they found “at least several hundred minor victims in thousands of video files,” Zach Myers, an assistant U.S. attorney on the case, said Tuesday.

Finkbiner had a detention hearing scheduled for Wednesday in federal court in Terre Haute on the charges pertaining to the two boys — two felony counts of sexual exploitation of a child.

Court documents filed in federal court in Los Angeles say a former San Bernardino middle school teacher also used omegle.com to meet four underage girls, including a 13-year-old New Jersey girl, with whom he exchanged sexually explicit photos via cellphone. Eugene Ballantyne, 29, pleaded not guilty April 2 to charges including the sexual exploitation of a minor and production of child pornography.

Ballantyne faces life in prison if convicted of all charges. He remains in federal custody awaiting his May 1 trial. His attorney, Stephen Demik, didn’t immediately respond to a phone message Tuesday seeking comment about his client’s case.

Myers said he wasn’t aware of any similar cases where it was “publicly alleged” that the website was used to pick up children, but he said that such anonymous chat sites can leave users vulnerable.

“In this situation, a child or adult simply doesn’t know who’s on the other end of that communication and what they might be doing,” Myers said.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether any of the alleged victims initially had adult permission to use omegle, which warns

users to use the site “at your own peril.”

The Associated Press was unable to locate a phone number for the site’s 19-year-old founder, Leif K-Brooks, whose address is variously listed as Brattleboro, Vt., or Portland, Ore., and he did not respond to a request for an interview set to him via Twitter.

In a 2010 interview on About.com, K-Brooks said he was “taking every possible step to protect Omegle’s users, including working with law enforcement agencies,” but he urged parents to supervise their children’s Internet use.

“Omegle isn’t for young children,” he said then. “I would strongly advise parents to inspect any website before allowing their children to use it.”

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Federal grand jury indicts Illinois state Rep. Derrick Smith for alleged bribery

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

Submitted at 8:53 AM April 11, 2012

Chicago Tribune on April 10, 2012 released the following:

“By Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal grand jury has formally indicted Illinois state Rep. Derrick Smith on a bribery charge.

Attorney General Eric Holder Speaks at the National Action Network 14th Annual Convention

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 9:43 AM April 11, 2012

“Although 44 years have passed since our nation first mourned the loss of Dr. King, it is clear that his spirit lives on. His enduring contributions have allowed me to stand on this stage as our nation’s first African-American Attorney General, and to serve alongside our first African-

American President. And the dream that he shared – on the National Mall that now includes a memorial in his honor – has inspired countless acts of compassion and collaboration, including the creation of the National Action Network more than two decades ago,” said Attorney General Holder.



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Federal prosecutors say Smith was indicted Tuesday. He is accused of accepting a \$7,000 cash bribe in exchange for writing a letter of support for a daycare center that he believed was seeking a state grant. The 48-year-old state representative from Chicago was initially charged and arrested on March 13. The indictment seeks \$4,500 in unrecovered proceeds of the alleged bribe payment.

The charge against Smith came after an undercover FBI investigation that started in December 2011. A federal bribery count is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine plus mandatory restitution.

Smith's attorney, Victor Henderson, tells the Chicago Sun-Times that Smith is innocent and has no plans to resign."

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates,
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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.

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