



Federal prosecutors claim Houston doctor was go-to man for fraud

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

Submitted at 10:16 AM May 23, 2012

The Houston Chronicle on May 22, 2012 released the following:

“By Terri Langford

A Houston physician accused of Medicare fraud prescribed costly home health care to hundreds of patients who didn't need it – the majority of whom he never examined – resulting in more than \$5.2 million in phony Medicare claims, according to federal data presented to jurors Tuesday.

In an unflattering snapshot of the home health care industry, the case brought by the government against Dr. Ben Echols aims to show he easily was able to sign off on home health care prescriptions for 352 patients and that the nation's Medicare system, a \$700 billion-plus behemoth, relies on an honor system where doctors and home health care agencies police their own claims.

Echols' attorney, Connie Williams, insists his client has done nothing against the law or Medicare rules.

“He's a good doctor. I think a lot of people in the community love him,”

Williams said of his client. “However, he's not the best manager in world.”

Echols' signature was found on the patients' plans of care forms, also known as a “485 form, paperwork needed by home health care companies before they can submit a claim for their services to Medicare.

The forms never make it to Medicare claims officials.

The home health care agencies and doctors keep them in their files in case a claim is questioned.

All of the requests for home health care for the 352 patients in question came from two home health care companies: Family Healthcare Services and Houston Compassionate Care.

Owners pleaded guilty

The owners of Family Healthcare, Clifford Ubani and Princewill Njoku, have already pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud,

U.S. v. William W. Lord

(Antitrust Division: Criminal Case Filings)

Submitted at 1:35 PM May 23, 2012

one count of conspiracy to pay kickbacks and 16 counts of payment of kickbacks to Medicare beneficiary recruiters.

A record kept by Family Healthcare and recovered from a storage facility by federal investigators showed how the company went to Echols after patients' own physicians rejected Family Healthcare's request to provide services. The company dubbed the record, a “Re-Bill Doctor Log.”

However, most of the patients – 204 – were referred by Echols for home health care services from Compassionate Care, the same company that paid him \$103,400 to serve as “medical director,” a position that requires him to make sure the company is following proper health care protocol.

Nurse indicted

The signature on the payments to Echols was that of Valnita Turner, a registered nurse with Compassionate Care.

Turner was indicted this month in the nation's largest Medicare fraud sweep and is accused of conspiracy to disclose health information, conspiracy to commit health care fraud and five counts of health care fraud.

The second day of testimony in Echols' trial, in U.S. District Judge Sim Lake's court room, focused on how the two companies outmaneuvered Medicare through unsophisticated paperwork sleights-of-hand.

In one example, Family Healthcare Services tried to get a patient in Crockett, 120 miles from Houston, approved by his hometown physician for home health care.

The doctor's office in Crockett faxed their denial back to Family Healthcare Services.

“He wasn't home-bound,” testified nurse practitioner Toni McDonald, who worked for the doctor in Crockett. “He was driving.”

Not long after the denial, that same patient's request for home health care was approved by Echols.

But Family Healthcare submitted paperwork to Medicare, under the Crockett physician's Medicare number,

not Echols', according to testimony from U.S. Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General agent Korby Harshaw.

Rules tightened

A year ago, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) tightened home health care rules because too many doctors were approving patients for home health care without seeing the patient.

Of the 352 patients approved for home health care services by Echols, 200 did not have an office visit with him beforehand.

And at least one patient he approved for care got it for 2½ years before he was seen by the physician.

As Echols left the courthouse Tuesday he declined comment, then added, “Except to say I am not the monster you think I am.””

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

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

Document filed on May 7, 2012

• [Information](#)



FBI quietly forms secretive Net-surveillance unit

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

Submitted at 12:00 PM May 23, 2012

CNET on May 22, 2012 released the following:

“CNET has learned that the FBI has formed a Domestic Communications Assistance Center, which is tasked with developing new electronic surveillance technologies, including intercepting Internet, wireless, and VoIP communications.

by Declan McCullagh

The FBI has recently formed a secretive surveillance unit with an ambitious goal: to invent technology that will let police more readily eavesdrop on Internet and wireless communications.

The establishment of the Quantico, Va.-based unit, which is also staffed by agents from the U.S. Marshals Service and the Drug Enforcement Agency, is a response to technological developments that FBI officials believe outpace law enforcement’s ability to listen in on private communications.

While the FBI has been tight-lipped about the creation of its Domestic Communications Assistance Center, or DCAC — it declined to respond to requests made two days ago about who’s running it, for instance — CNET has pieced together information about its operations through interviews and a review of internal government documents.

DCAC’s mandate is broad, covering everything from trying to intercept and decode Skype conversations to building custom wiretap hardware or analyzing the gigabytes of data that a wireless provider or social network might turn over in response to a court order. It’s also designed to serve as a kind of surveillance help desk for state, local, and other federal police.

The center represents the technological component of the bureau’s “Going Dark” Internet wiretapping push, which was allocated \$54 million by a Senate committee last month. The legal component is no less important: as CNET reported on May 4, the FBI wants Internet companies not to oppose a proposed law that would require social-networks and providers of VoIP, instant messaging, and Web e-mail to build in backdoors for government surveillance.

During an appearance last year on Capitol Hill, then-FBI general counsel Valerie Caproni referred in passing, without elaboration, to “individually tailored” surveillance solutions and “very sophisticated criminals.” Caproni said that

new laws targeting social networks and voice over Internet Protocol conversations were required because “individually tailored solutions have to be the exception and not the rule.”

Caproni was referring to the DCAC’s charge of creating customized surveillance technologies aimed at a specific individual or company, according to a person familiar with the FBI’s efforts in this area. An FBI job announcement for the DCAC that had an application deadline of May 2 provides additional details. It asks applicants to list their experience with “electronic surveillance standards” including PacketCable (used in cable modems); QChat (used in push-to-talk mobile phones); and T1.678 (VoIP communications). One required skill for the position, which pays up to \$136,771 a year, is evaluating “electronic surveillance solutions” for “emerging” technologies. “We would expect that capabilities like CIPAV would be an example” of what the DCAC will create, says Steve Bock, president of Colorado-based Subsentio, referring to the FBI’s remotely-installed spyware that it has used to identify extortionists, database-deleting hackers, child molesters, and hitmen.

Bock, whose company helps companies comply with the 1994 Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) and has consulted for the Justice Department, says he anticipates “that Internet and wireless will be two key focus areas” for the DCAC. VoIP will be a third, he says.

For its part, the FBI responded to queries this week with a statement about the center, which it also refers to as the National Domestic Communications Assistance Center (even Caproni has used both names interchangeably), saying:

The NDCAC will have the functionality to leverage the research and development efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement with respect to electronic surveillance capabilities and facilitate the sharing of technology among law enforcement agencies. Technical personnel from other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies will be able to obtain advice and guidance if they have difficulty in attempting to implement lawful electronic surveillance court orders. It is important to point out that the NDCAC will not be responsible for the actual execution of any electronic surveillance court orders and will not have any direct operational or investigative role in investigations. It will provide the

technical knowledge and referrals in response to law enforcement’s requests for technical assistance.

Here’s the [full text](#) of the FBI’s statement in a Google+ post.

One person familiar with the FBI’s procedures told CNET that the DCAC is in the process of being launched but is not yet operational. A public Justice Department document, however, refers to the DCAC as “recently established.” “They’re doing the best they can to avoid being transparent”

The FBI has disclosed little information about the DCAC, and what has been previously made public about the center was primarily through budget requests sent to congressional committees. The DCAC doesn’t even have a Web page. “The big question for me is why there isn’t more transparency about what’s going on?” asks Jennifer Lynch, a staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties group in San Francisco. “We should know more about the program and what the FBI is doing. Which carriers they’re working with — which carriers they’re having problems with. They’re doing the best they can to avoid being transparent.”

The DCAC concept dates back at least four years. FBI director Robert Mueller was briefed on it in early 2008, internal FBI documents show. In January 2008, Charles Smith, a supervisory special agent and section chief in the FBI’s Operational Technology Division, sent e-mail to other division officials asking for proposals for the DCAC’s budget.

When it comes to developing new surveillance technologies, Quantico is the U.S. government’s equivalent of a Silicon Valley incubator. In addition to housing the FBI’s Operational Technological Division, which boasts of developing the “latest and greatest investigative technologies to catch terrorists and criminals” and took the lead in creating the DCAC, it’s also home to the FBI’s Engineering Research Facility, the DEA’s Office of Investigative Technology, and the U.S. Marshals’ Technical Operations Group. In 2008, Wired.com reported that the FBI has “direct, high-speed access to a major wireless carrier’s systems” through a high-speed DS-3 link to Quantico.

The Senate appropriations committee said in a report last month that, for electronic surveillance capabilities, it authorizes “\$54,178,000, which is equal to both the request and the fiscal year 2012 enacted



Feds: SC businessman illegally exported to Iran

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

Submitted at 9:59 AM May 23, 2012

Bloomberg Business Week on May 22, 2012 released the following:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“By MEG KINNARD

The president of a North Charleston company has been arrested and charged with illegally exporting goods to Iran and lying to agents about his trade practices, according to federal prosecutors.

Markos Baghdasarian was arrested Saturday at Atlanta’s main airport before he could board a flight to the United Arab Emirates. That’s where, according to federal authorities, Baghdasarian had a business associate who helped get his South Carolina-made products into Iran.

Baghdasarian was president of Delfin Group USA, a Russian-owned producer and supplier of synthetic motor oils that solidified its U.S. presence in the North Charleston area in 2008 with a \$55 million renovation to an old Shell Oil plant it had bought for \$20 million. Company officials said he was placed on leave May 14 and referred comment on the case to its outside counsel, who did not immediately return a message Tuesday.

Prosecutors said Baghdasarian broke federal law that prohibits trade with Iran without special permission from the federal government. Federal law also requires exporters and shippers to file forms showing where the goods are going.

Some of the evidence that agents say they have amassed against Baghdasarian comes from emails to him from two unidentified business associates, who discussed how to safely get Baghdasarian’s products to Iran without detection. According to prosecutors, one of those unidentified

Georgia Tax Cheats Indicted for Conspiring to Defraud the United States

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 4:28 PM May 23, 2012

Tyrone Devon Thompson, Aritha Currie, Julius Thompson, Tronda Thompson and Shonda Sneed were charged in an indictment by a federal grand jury in the Middle District of Georgia on a variety of counts stemming from a tax fraud scheme,

Attorney General Eric Holder Speaks at Harvard Law School Class Day

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 3:40 PM May 23, 2012

"And although I may not know anything about creating an Emmy-winning comedy series, or exposing the absurdity of

businessmen was Baghdasarian’s agent in Iran and also represented a company in the United Arab Emirates used to ship Delfin products to Iran.

A second unidentified businessman operated another business in the UAE for similar purposes, said John Hardin, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, in an affidavit.

In July 2010, one of the unidentified businessmen had conversations with another person on how to help Baghdasarian get around U.S. sanctions on Iran by using his UAE-based company. In those communications, according to Hardin, the unidentified businessman said the materials would come into Iran via Dubai but would be relabeled as “UAE product.”

“So u are safe Markos is safe,” the other associated replied, according to Hardin. Other communications discussed what product labels should look like, with one message including a fake address for a California company and a toll-free number that agents determined actually went to offices for Victoria’s Secret.

In August 2011, Delfin USA tried to send aviation engine lubricating oils worth \$850,000 to an associate in the UAE, according to Hardin. Federal officials failed in their efforts to contact Baghdasarian’s company to get information about that shipment. Agents attached electronic trackers to another load of 11 containers bound for the UAE; one was traced all the way to Iran.

Earlier this month, Baghdasarian acknowledged to federal agents that one of the unidentified businessmen was a middle man for his company’s products but, according to agents, lied in saying that he didn’t know that the other associate was in Iran until just a few

the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced today. The 22-count indictment charges all five with conspiring to defraud the United States and filing false claims against the United States. The indictment, which was returned on May 11, 2012, was unsealed following the defendants’ arrests.

modern politics through a satirical newscast – though I frequently encounter the absurdity of modern-day American politics – I do know something about what you’ve experienced, and about how you

months earlier — after the U.S. Department of Commerce suspended his company’s trading privileges.

Baghdasarian faces up to 20 years in prison if he is convicted. He had an initial hearing in Georgia on Monday, and it wasn’t immediately clear when he would be extradited to South Carolina. A person who answered a number listed for Baghdasarian’s home said she did not know if he had an attorney.”

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

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Justice Department Recognizes Efforts to Rescue Children from Abuse and Prosecute Predators

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:14 PM May 23, 2012

Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole paid tribute to four individuals today during the National Missing Children’s Day ceremony at the Justice Department’s Great Hall.

feel – right now, in this moment, with so much hard work and so many long nights of studying behind you – and an exciting, but uncertain, future now before you," said Attorney General Holder.



Govt lawyers red-faced after FBI spirits Dotcom evidence to US

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

Submitted at 3:24 PM May 23, 2012

New Zealand Herald on May 24, 2012 released the following:

“By David Fisher

The Government’s lawyers have been ordered to explain how the FBI left the country with evidence in the Kim Dotcom case meant to be kept in “secure custody” by New Zealand police.

High Court Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann has told the Attorney-General’s lawyer, Mike Ruffin, he has until Monday to explain why FBI agents were allowed to take 135 cloned computer and data storage devices to the United States.

At a legal challenge at the High Court in Auckland yesterday, Dotcom’s lawyer Paul Davison, QC, called the revelation “high-handed” at best and “at the worst misleading”.

Mr Davison and lawyers for Dotcom’s three co-accused want a judicial review into search warrants used during FBI-inspired raids on January 20. Dotcom, Finn Batato, Mathias Ortman and Bram van der Kolk were arrested over allegations of criminal copyright violation through their file-sharing website Megaupload.

Mr Davison said he asked for assurances in correspondence with Mr Ruffin’s predecessor, Anne Toohey, that no evidence would leave New Zealand shores

unless on the back of a court decision.

Crown Law had told him it had “not happened and will not happen without prior warning”. He said yesterday was the first time he was aware any material had left the country and there had been an agreement to maintain the “status quo” over the evidence. “There is no approval for the removal of these clones from New Zealand. There has been an excess of authority.”

Mr Davison said the correspondence included a statement from the head of the police organised crime squad, Detective Inspector Grant Wormald, that the belongings were held in secure custody.

He said Dotcom’s rights had been “subverted or disregarded or worse”.

The revelation is the latest embarrassment for the Crown, which has already been exposed for fumbling parts of the case. It used the wrong law to get a court order to seize Dotcom’s assets – an error which contributed to the police having to offer an undertaking of liability. There had earlier been discontent over the size, scale and style of the police raid which Davison has said will form a complaint to the Independent Police Conduct Authority.

Yesterday, Mr Ruffin said he was aware the cloned copies had been sent out of New Zealand. However, he said he was unaware of Ms Toohey’s assurances to Mr Davison.

Mr Ruffin told the court a set of digital images copied from the computers had

been taken to the US. “The actual items seized under the search warrant remain in New Zealand,” he said.

The Crown Law Office and Attorney-General Chris Finlayson refused to comment.”

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Fitzgerald steps down as US attorney in Chicago

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

Submitted at 12:06 PM May 23, 2012

Associated Press on May 23, 2012

released the following:

“CHICAGO (AP) — Patrick Fitzgerald is stepping down as the U.S. attorney in Chicago.

Fitzgerald has overseen thousands of criminal prosecutions and was the architect of cases against Illinois governors Rod Blagojevich and George Ryan, former Vice President Dick Cheney’s top aide I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby and media mogul Conrad Black.

Fitzgerald has held the post for the Northern District of Illinois for more than a decade. His office announced Wednesday that he’s stepping down effective June 30.

Fitzgerald doesn’t give a reason for leaving in the news release announcing his

departure. He says he has no future employment plans and he’ll take time off this summer before making any career decisions.

Fitzgerald is leaving the Justice Department after nearly 24 years, including his time as an assistant U.S. Attorney in New York.”

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FBI

continued from page 2

level. These funds will support the Domestic Communications Assistance Center, providing for increased coordination regarding lawful electronic surveillance amongst the law enforcement community and with the communications industry.” (It’s unclear whether all of those funds will go to the DCAC.)

In trying to convince Congress to spend taxpayers’ dollars on the DCAC, the FBI has received help from local law enforcement agencies that like the idea of electronic surveillance aid. A Justice Department funding request for the 2013 fiscal year predicts DCAC will “facilitate the sharing of solutions and know-how among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies” and will be welcomed by telecommunications companies who “prefer to standardize and centralize electronic surveillance.”

A 2010 resolution from the International Association of Chiefs of Police — a reliable FBI ally on these topics — requests that “Congress and the White House support the National Domestic Communications Assistance Center Business Plan.”

The FBI has also had help from the Drug Enforcement Administration, which last year requested \$1.5 million to fund eight additional DCAC positions. DEA

administrator Michele Leonhart has said (PDF) the funds will go to “develop these new electronic surveillance capabilities.” The DEA did not respond to CNET’s request for comment.

An intriguing hint of where the DCAC might collaborate with the National Security Agency appeared in author James Bamford’s article in the April issue of Wired magazine. Bamford said, citing an unidentified senior NSA official, that the agency has “made an enormous breakthrough several years ago in its ability to cryptanalyze, or break, unfathomably complex encryption systems” — an obstacle that law enforcement has encountered in investigations.

Eventually, the FBI may be forced to lift the cloak of secrecy that has surrounded the DCAC’s creation. On May 2, a House of Representatives committee directed the bureau to disclose “participation by other agencies and the accomplishments of the center to date” three months after the legislation is enacted.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates,
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Chipotle says prosecutors probing it for securities law violations related to hiring practices

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

Submitted at 11:21 AM May 23, 2012

The Washington Post on May 22, 2012 released the following:

“By Associated Press

DENVER — Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. said on Tuesday that federal prosecutors are investigating the company for possible criminal violations of securities laws related to its hiring practices.

The Department of Homeland Security’s immigration enforcement unit is already probing the company for compliance with employee work authorization laws. The company said Friday that the Securities and Exchange Commission has also issued a subpoena regarding its compliance with work authorization requirements.

The company disclosed the latest probe, by the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, in a SEC filing on Tuesday. The restaurant chain, which is based in

Denver, said it is cooperating with the investigations.

In 2010, following questions from federal immigration officials, Chipotle fired about 450 Minnesota employees who couldn’t prove they were eligible to work in the U.S. Federal officials then requested worker authorization documents for employees in Virginia and the nation’s capital. That investigation continues. The company has said that it is following the law.

Shares of Chipotle rose \$2.23, less than 1 percent, to close at \$395.56 on Tuesday. Shares have ranged from \$267.43 to \$442.40 in the past 12 months.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates,
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US prosecutors: Ex-Mexican governor's Texas properties bought with bribes from drug cartels

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

Submitted at 9:39 AM May 23, 2012

The Washington Post on May 22, 2012 released the following:

“By Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas — Federal prosecutors allege the former governor of a Mexican state bordering Texas accepted millions of dollars in bribes from drug cartels and invested the money in Texas real estate.

The allegations were levied in two property forfeiture cases filed Tuesday against Tomas Yarrington, who served as governor of Tamaulipas state from 1999 to 2004. No criminal charges have been filed.

Yarrington's attorney says he's reviewing the documents.

Yarrington was named earlier this year in the federal indictment of a man charged with money laundering in San Antonio. That indictment alleged leaders of the Gulf and Zetas cartels paid millions to Institutional Revolutionary Party members, including Yarrington.

In the forfeiture cases, U.S. authorities are trying to confiscate a condominium in South Padre Island and a 46-acre property in San Antonio.”

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

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Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole Speaks at the Justice Department's National Missing Children's Day Ceremony

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:18 PM May 23, 2012

"I am so pleased to be here today to honor four individuals for their extraordinary efforts to find and rescue missing and exploited children and bring perpetrators to justice. Their achievements – and the stories behind them – remind us of the special qualities possessed by every single one of you who works to protect our children," said Deputy Attorney General Cole.

Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Mary Lou Leary Speaks at the Justice Department's National Missing Children's Day Ceremony

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:12 PM May 23, 2012

"I've spent much of my career – as a prosecutor, in government, and as head of the National Center for Victims of Crime – working to strengthen our responses to victims of all ages. I never cease to marvel at the incredible devotion and resolve of victim advocates," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Leary.

Federal prosecutors: Alleged mobsters among 14 charged in illegal online gambling ring in NJ

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

Submitted at 12:40 PM May 23, 2012

The Republic on May 22, 2012 released the following:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“NEWARK, N.J. — Federal prosecutors say 14 people have been charged in an illegal online gambling operation run out of northern New Jersey.

U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman says 13 people, including alleged members of the Genovese organized crime family and its LaScala Crew, face charges of racketeering conspiracy. The other defendant's charged with transmission of wagering information. []

Fishman says the gambling website was maintained in Costa Rica, but bettors paid or received money in New Jersey.

The Lascala Crew is also accused of

cargo theft and receipt and sale of stolen goods. They also allegedly profit from illegal gambling at social clubs it operates in north Jersey and elsewhere.

The defendants were due to make their initial court appearances Tuesday afternoon. Two of them remain at large.”

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

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Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Mary Lou Leary Speaks at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 17th Annual Congressional Breakfast

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 9:27 AM May 23, 2012

"Today, I'm very pleased to announce that we're awarding almost \$27 million to support NCMEC's great work. The funds will continue all the great programs I just named – and many more, like the national resource center and information clearinghouse," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Leary.

Delaware Company Pleads Guilty to Unlawful Discharges of Oil in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:35 PM May 23, 2012

A Delaware company pleaded guilty today in federal court in the Eastern District of Louisiana to negligently discharging oil into the bayous of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, the Department of Justice announced.

Attorney General Eric Holder Speaks at the American Law Institute Annual Meeting

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 9:15 AM May 23, 2012

"For nearly nine decades, ALI has been on the front lines of efforts to improve the strength, integrity, and effectiveness of our justice system," said Attorney General Holder.

BP Agrees to Add More Than \$400 Million in Pollution Controls at Indiana Refinery and Pay \$8 Million Clean Air Act Penalty

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 3:02 PM May 23, 2012

BP North America Inc. has agreed to pay an \$8 million penalty and invest more than \$400 million to install state-of-the-art pollution controls and cut emissions from BP's petroleum refinery in Whiting, Ind.

Statement of the Attorney General on Resignation of U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois Patrick Fitzgerald

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:52 PM May 23, 2012

Attorney General Eric Holder issued the following statement today on the resignation of United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois Patrick Fitzgerald.