



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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SIX DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT CHARGES AS A RESULT OF "OPERATION RECONCILE"

(Richmond, VA) - Six defendants pled guilty in federal court this week as part of "Operation Reconcile," a federal initiative to identify and prosecute persons engaged in identity theft. Harold Brandon-Jackson, age 21, and Allyson Brunson, age 21, both of Richmond, Virginia, pled guilty to identity theft charges. Katrina Quarles, age 31, and Annette Ross, age 33, both of Richmond, Virginia, and Dale Stano, age 48, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, all pled guilty to aggravated identity theft and bank fraud charges. Annie Brooks, age 47, of Richmond, Virginia, pled guilty to bank larceny. The pleas were announced by United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia Chuck Rosenberg.

Brandon-Jackson, Quarles, and Brunson were all employees at a bank. Each independently procured bank credit cards without authorization which they used to make fraudulent charges. Stano obtained stolen checks which he had others cash at various banks for him. Ross obtained a bank account in the name of another, and deposited stolen checks into that account. Brooks obtained a stolen check from a third party, altered the check to make herself the payee, and cashed the check at a local credit union.

The maximum penalties for Identity Theft are fifteen years of imprisonment and a \$250,000.00 fine. Violations of Bank Fraud carry a maximum term of imprisonment of thirty years and a \$1 million dollar fine. The penalties for Aggravated Identity Theft are a mandatory term of imprisonment of two years to run consecutive to any other prison time the defendant may receive and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. The maximum penalties for bank larceny are a term of imprisonment of ten years and a fine of up to \$250,000. Quarles is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge James R. Spencer on April 25; Stano and Brunson are scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson on April 27; and Ross is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Hudson on May 4. Brooks is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Spencer on April 24. Brandon-Jackson was sentenced by Judge Hudson on January 22,

2007, at the time of his plea, to 15 days of intermittent confinement, six months of home incarceration and three years of supervised release.

Fifty-one defendants were charged with identity theft-related crimes in November 2006 under “Operation Reconcile” as a result of investigations conducted by members of the Metro-Richmond Identity Theft Task Force. The defendants charged included fraud recidivists, former bank employees and illegal aliens. To date, a total of 28 of the defendants arrested in the operation have entered guilty pleas. Seven others have federal charges pending and the remainder are either in state custody or fugitives pending arrest.

The Task Force was formed in the Fall of 2004 and is housed at the offices of the United States Postal Inspection Service located in Henrico County. Full-time member agencies include the Postal Inspection Service, United States Secret Service; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Treasury Inspector General, Office of Investigations; Henrico County Police Department; Richmond Police Department; Chesterfield County Police Department. Prosecutions for the Task Force are handled by the United States Attorney’s Office; the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia; and a cross-designated prosecutor from the Chesterfield Commonwealth Attorney’s Office.

For more information on the Task Force, including assistance for victims of identity theft, visit: www.richmondIDtheft.com.

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