



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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## **ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN IDENTITY THEFT SCHEMES**

**(Richmond, VA)** – A federal grand jury today returned indictments in three separate cases involving identity theft schemes. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the indictments.

Robbie Joshua Converse, age 35, and Leza Chantel Townsend, age 40, both of New Hampshire, were charged in a fourteen count indictment with an identity theft conspiracy, bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, and possessing and uttering forged securities indicted for their alleged involvement in a fraud and identity theft scheme that stretched from New England to Virginia. Each is facing a statutory maximum of 209 years, coupled with \$7,750,000 in fines and full restitution to the targeted victims.

According to the indictment, Converse and Townsend engaged in an ongoing identity theft scheme from at least August 2007 through late January 2008. In conducting the scheme, the indictment alleges, Converse, Townsend and confederates would unlawfully obtain, possess, transfer, and use the identifications and checks in the names of other persons or organizations; forge checks in amounts ranging from \$250 up to \$3,500 made payable to a conspirator or to a victim whose identity was being used by a conspirator; appear at a banking institution and cash the forged checks; and divide the cash proceeds received from the forged checks among the co-conspirators.

The indictment specifically alleges that one of the conspirators would obtain the personal identification or personal checks from victims located in Virginia, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. The indictment charges that Converse or Townsend would then forge the stolen checks and make them payable to themselves or victims whose driver's licenses had been

unlawfully obtained by the pair. With the forged checks in hand, it is charged, Converse or Townsend would then appear at the banking institutions listed on the stolen personal checks and cash the instruments for hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of dollars. It is charged that the turn around time on the alleged fraud scheme was relatively quick, with many fraudulent transactions being conducted the same day that Converse and Townsend obtained the stolen checks.

John Thomas Baisey, age 22, of Bracey, Virginia, was charged in a five count indictment with bank fraud and aggravated identity theft for his alleged role in a fraud and identity theft scheme involving the theft of Citibank and Discover Bank credit card information. He is facing a statutory maximum of 64 years, coupled with \$2,750,000 in fines and full restitution to the targeted victims.

According to the indictment, Baisey and others engaged in an ongoing identity theft scheme from at least July 2007 through February 2008. In conducting the scheme, it is charged, Baisey fraudulently obtained the means of identification for various Citibank and Discover Bank credit card customers, including the unique electronic identification numbers, addresses and routing codes associated with Citibank Visa and Mastercard and Discover Bank Discover credit card accounts. Baisey then allegedly utilized the stolen credit card information to manufacture and produce counterfeit credit cards, specifically described as altered gift cards on which, it is charged, the defendant encoded the stolen credit card account information. The indictment alleges that Baisey and his co-conspirators then used the counterfeit access devices for their own personal transactions. Baisey allegedly also sold several of the counterfeit access devices to other co-conspirators for approximately \$100-\$150 per access device.

Johanna Boone, age 35, of Richmond, Virginia, was charged in a six count indictment with bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, and theft of mail for her alleged involvement in a fraud and identity theft scheme that targeted Liberty Termite & Pest Control in Richmond, Virginia. If convicted on all charges, Boone is facing a statutory maximum of 99 years, coupled with \$3,750,000 in fines and full restitution to the targeted victims.

According to the indictment, Boone was an employee of Liberty Termite & Pest Control at the time of the allegedly fraudulent conduct. It is charged that Boone opened unauthorized bank accounts at SunTrust and Wachovia banks in the name of Liberty Termite and Pest Control. She then allegedly stole authentic accounts-receivable checks made payable to Liberty Termite & Pest Control from the United States mail without the knowledge or authorization of the actual owners of Liberty Termite & Pest Control or the customers who had mailed their payments to that company. The indictment alleges that Boone then deposited the stolen checks into the fraudulent accounts she had opened and used the money for her own personal expenses. In addition, it is alleged, Boone used the name, date of birth and social security number of another individual to open a credit card account at Capital One Bank. She then allegedly used the credit card for her own personal expenses.

The case is being investigated by members of the Metro-Richmond Identity Theft Task Force. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael Gill. For

more information on the Task Force, including assistance for victims of identity theft, visit:  
[www.richmondIDtheft.com](http://www.richmondIDtheft.com).

Defendants are presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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