

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S  
OFFICE**

**DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**



**AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**JUNE 14, 2004**

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is with great pleasure and admiration that we acknowledge a select number of significant prosecutions that have been completed or substantially adjudicated in the District of Connecticut over the past year. None of these successful investigations and prosecutions would have been possible without the dedicated work of the men and women of law enforcement we honor today. All have made extraordinary contributions to the criminal justice system and the work undertaken by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut.

On the occasion of this, the Seventh Annual United States Attorney's Awards, we take great pleasure in honoring the men and women who have contributed so significantly to the many successes this Office has enjoyed in the past year. We also wish to acknowledge the families and colleagues of each honoree who join us today for this special occasion.

On behalf of all of us in the United States Attorney's Office, congratulations, and thank you for your dedication and devotion to the cause of justice.

**KEVIN J. O'CONNOR  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

**JUNE 14, 2004**

**United States v. Paul Silvester**

*Docket No. 3:99CR206(AVC)*

**United States v. Triumph Capital, et al**

*Docket No. 3:00CR217(EBB)*

**United States v. Ben F. Andrews**

*Docket No. 3:00CR217(EBB)*

**United States v. Mark Silvester**

*Docket No. 3:99CR205(AVC)*

**United States v. Peter Hirschl**

*Docket No. 3:99CR207(AVC)*

**United States v. George Gomes**

*Docket No. 3:00CR67(AVC)*

AUSA Leonard C. Boyle

AUSA Nora R. Dannehy

AUSA William J. Nardini

AUSA David A. Ring

The above cases are a culmination of a long term public corruption investigation into the solicitation and receipt of bribes and gratuities under the administration of the former Connecticut State Treasurer Paul J. Silvester. The investigation commenced in approximately March 1999.

The Connecticut State Treasurer has sole fiduciary responsibility for the State of Connecticut Pension Fund and thus has unilateral authority to make decisions about the investment of the pension fund's assets. One area of investment for the assets is known as the Alternative Investment Portfolio, which consists of investments in real estate and private equity funds. The investigation focused on the corruption of the investment process in the area of private equity investments by the solicitation and acceptance of bribes and gratuities for Silvester, Ben Andrews, Lisa Thiesfield and others in return for making investments with certain companies.

Paul Silvester, the former Connecticut State Treasurer, pleaded guilty on September 23, 1999, to one count of violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization statute ("RICO") and one count of money laundering.

Silvester cooperated with the investigation and testified at two trials stemming from his corrupt practices while Connecticut State Treasurer, and juries returned guilty verdicts against Triumph Capital Group Inc., its Vice President and General Counsel, Charles Spadoni, and Ben Andrews of Hartford, Connecticut. On July 16, 2003, Triumph and Spadoni were convicted of RICO, RICO conspiracy, bribery, mail/wire fraud, and obstruction of justice. On October 29, 2003,

a jury convicted Andrews of bribery, mail/wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and making a false statement to federal agents.

On September 4, 2003, Frederick McCarthy, Chairman and founder of Triumph Capital Group Inc., and Lisa Thiesfield, Silvester's associate and a former employee of the Connecticut Treasurer's Office, pleaded guilty to federal bribery charges. George Gomes, former Deputy Treasurer, pleaded guilty on April 3, 2000, to mail fraud and theft of honest services. On September 23, 1999, Silvester's brother-in-law Peter Hirschl pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering, and Silvester's brother Mark Silvester pleaded guilty to conspiracy to solicit and accept corrupt payments.

At the Triumph Capital trial, the Government proved that Silvester solicited consulting contracts valued at \$1 million each for two associates in return for an investment of \$200 million in pension assets with a Triumph Capital private equity fund. In addition, the jury found Triumph Capital and Spadoni guilty of obstruction of justice for using software called "Destroy It!" to destroy computer files relevant to the investigation, after the service of grand jury subpoenas.

A separate jury found Andrews guilty of bribery, money laundering and making false statements to agents. They concluded that Silvester had solicited a \$1 million consulting contract for Andrews in consideration for the investment of \$100 million of state pension assets, and that Andrews agreed to kick back a portion of the corrupt payments to Silvester. The jury also concluded that Andrews committed a second act of bribery when he agreed to the same corrupt arrangement in consideration for Silvester's decision to commit an additional \$50 million of pension assets to the same fund.

The success of this case was the result of the agents' years of hard work and attention to detail, both in the many witness interviews and the review of boxes and boxes of documents and financial records. The investigation was largely historical and focused on the use of cooperators and search warrants. A search of one lawyer/defendant's office very early in the investigation resulted in the seizure of evidence which corroborated a key cooperator's information about the kickback and laundering of hundreds of thousands of dollars to Paul Silvester. The search of a laptop computer used by another lawyer resulted in the seizure of evidence and ultimate charge of obstruction of justice against that lawyer and his company. The defendants, in lengthy and detailed motions to suppress the search of the laptop computer, raised novel and complex issues relating to the computer search, but all of these claims were rejected by the Court after a lengthy suppression hearing.

**Special Agent Charles E. Urso  
Special Agent Jeff Alan Rovelli  
Special Agent Timothy D. Egan  
Special Agent Joseph McTague**

**Judy R. Wieske, Trial Illustrator**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Internal Revenue Service,  
Criminal Investigation  
Internal Revenue Service**

**United States v. Renaldo Rose**

*Docket No. 3:03CR33(EBB)*

**United States v. Devon Harris**  
*Docket No. 3:03CR55(EBB)*

**United States v. Shemone Gordon**  
*Docket No. 3:03CR56(EBB)*

USA Kevin J. O'Connor  
AUSA James J. Finnerty

On January 10, 2003, Renaldo Rose, Shemone Gordon, Devon Harris, and another individual who is a juvenile kidnaped Edward Lampert at gunpoint from the parking lot of his office in Greenwich, Connecticut. The kidnap victim was held bound and gagged in the bathroom of a hotel room. In the early morning hours of January 12, 2003, Lampert was released unharmed in exchange for a promise to pay approximately \$40,000 to the kidnapers.

On January 13, 2003, Gordon, Harris, and the juvenile were arrested for their involvement in the kidnaping. On January 18, 2003, Rose was arrested in Canada, to which he fled after releasing Lampert.

The investigation involved searches of Rose's residence and his computer, a search of Gordon's car, a search for firearms evidence in a New Haven park, searches of various rental cars, the interviewing of numerous witnesses, the collection of documents and evidence from varied locations and individuals, the review of bank records, fingerprint and handwriting analyses, forensic searches of computers and computer files, and requests for assistance to Canadian law enforcement officers to conduct a search of Rose's vehicle in Canada, to arrest Rose, and to arrange his delivery to United States law enforcement authorities.

During the investigation, law enforcement officers also uncovered the defendants' involvement in numerous other criminal offenses, including a previously unsolved armed robbery of a UPS truck on December 24, 2002 in New Haven, Connecticut and a credit card fraud scheme originating in East Haven, Connecticut.

The investigation involved the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Greenwich Police Department, the New Haven Police Department, and the Hamden Police Department.

On January 13, 2003, the juvenile was arrested federally for violating the Juvenile Delinquency Act. The federal charges against the juvenile subsequently were dismissed in favor his prosecution in state court. The juvenile subsequently pleaded guilty in state courts to charges relating to the Lampert kidnaping and the UPS armed robbery.

On March 4, 2003, Harris waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a six-count Information. Harris will be sentenced in June 2004.

On March 6, 2003, Gordon waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a six-count Information. Gordon will be sentenced later this summer.

On January 27, 2004, Rose pleaded guilty to a five-count Indictment alleging violations of the Hobbs Act and firearms laws. On May 17, 2004, Rose was sentenced to 181 months' imprisonment.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**Supervisory Special Agent David M. Rhieu  
Special Agent Patrick J. Ryan  
Special Agent Lisa A. Skelly**

**Special Agent Donald R. Kleber  
Special Agent Stephen J. Shiner  
Special Agent Michael Syrax**

**Hamden Police Department**

**Lt. John Cappiello  
Lt. John Lujick  
Lt. Thomas Wydra**

**Lt. Bo Kicak  
Lt. Ronald Smith  
Det. Gregory Nutcher**

**Greenwich Police Department**

**Sgt. Mark A. Marino  
Det. Timothy M. Powell**

**Det. Terence M. McCue**

**New Haven Police Department**

**Det. Daryle Breland**

**Det. Edwin Rodriguez**

**United States v. Tyco Printed Circuit Group**  
*Docket No. 3:04CR139(AVC)*

AUSA Brian E. Spears

This case involved multiple federal Clean Water Act violations by Tyco Printed Circuit Group, a division of Tyco International. The offenses stemmed from the actions of several Tyco waste treatment managers, who engaged in a range of criminal conduct including (1) bypassing filtration equipment designed to reduce levels of toxic metals in discharged wastewater; (2) falsifying records to hide the discharge of a treatment tank that contained toxic metals; (3) conspiring to withhold information from regulators that would have revealed permit violations; and (4) diluting samples of discharged wastewater with tap water to mask high levels of copper and lead. Special Agents Albert Seeley and Annette Campe of the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, and DEP Inspector William Oros, working with Peter Kenyon of the EPA's Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel, tirelessly poured over cartons of documents and interviewed dozens of employees and potential witnesses to uncover the full reach of Tyco's misconduct. EPA agents also conducted an extensive and carefully coordinated search warrant through which significant documentary and sampling evidence was recovered.

Three individuals pleaded guilty to felony Clean Water Act charges, -- Dan Callahan, Tyco's head of Environmental Health & Safety, Robert Smith, waste treatment manager, and Anthony Dadalt, another waste treatment manager. These three individuals await sentencing. On April 29, 2004, Tyco pleaded guilty and agreed to a resolution involving the payment of \$10 million toward criminal fines and environmentally beneficial programs. The resolution marks the largest monetary resolution in an environmental crimes case brought in the New England region.

**Peter Kenyon**  
**Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel**

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**Special Agent Albert W. Seeley**

**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Criminal Investigations Division**

**Special Agent Annette Campe**

**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Criminal Investigations Division**

**Inspector William Oros, Jr.**

**Water Bureau**  
**Department of Environmental Protection**

## **OPERATION FREE SHOT**

AUSA David J. Sheldon  
AUSA Richard M. Molot

“Operation Free Shot,” a continuing investigation by the Health Care Fraud Task Force, focuses on Connecticut health care providers who bill Medicaid and other insurance programs for childhood vaccines the providers received free-of-charge from the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program, a joint federal/state program that provides childhood immunizations. Under the VFC Program, doctors and other health care providers receive free vaccines distributed by the Department of Public Health, and agree not to bill Medicaid or any other third-party for the cost of the vaccines. The provider may recover a minimal fee for administrative costs associated with inoculating a child.

In violation of these rules, Dr. Suvarna Shah and Dr. Jorge Elias billed Medicaid and other insurance plans for the vaccine doses. These two doctors received approximately \$600,000 from Medicaid and private insurance companies for vaccines they received free-of-charge from the VFC program

The agents executed search warrants, conducted numerous interviews, and analyzed extensive claims data from both Medicaid and private insurance companies. This effort resulted in the two doctors pleading guilty to Health Care Fraud offenses, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1347. Dr. Shah also pleaded guilty to tax evasion, and agreed to pay an additional \$700,000 to the IRS. In addition, both doctors entered into civil settlements in which they agreed to pay double damages to Medicaid and to reimburse all of the private insurance companies. The total amount to be paid by the doctors is approximately \$875,000.

**Special Agent Ron W. Offutt**  
**Special Agent Keith Ryan**  
**Special Agent Debra Lee**  
**Special Agent John Paolino**  
**Michael Bolduc**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation**  
**Food and Drug Administration**  
**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

## **THE COMPUTER CRIMES TASK FORCE**

The United States Attorney's Office wishes to recognize the outstanding work of the Innocent Images Section of the New Haven Computer Crimes Task Force, organized and operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and staffed by men and women from the FBI, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the New Britain Police Department, the Glastonbury Police Department, and the Milford Police Department.

These agents and officers have, since July 2003, developed an extraordinarily successful unit that has made significant strides in protecting our children from internet predators. In the first six months of operation, this Task Force carried out multiple successful sting operations, resulting in the arrests of six predators who traveled to Connecticut in hopes of sexually abusing children but who instead found themselves under arrest and facing stiff prison sentences for their conduct. The Task Force also has identified other individuals who have distributed child pornography and more who have received it.

As the information superhighway enriches all of our lives in so many ways, it also has a dark side that enables pedophiles to extend their tentacles far beyond their physical surroundings. As time has gone on, pedophiles have become aware that law enforcement is running them to ground, and these predators have developed a variety of means of testing whether a sting operation is putting them at risk of prosecution. However, these agents and officers have developed a response to every stumbling block raised by the predators. As a result of their unstinting efforts, the dark side of the internet has been increasingly illuminated by the men and women who patrol in defense of our children.

The following are but a few of the cases developed by this outstanding group of agents and officers.

### **United States v. Basil E. Doucette**

*Docket No. 3:04CR11(AWT)*

AUSA John A. Danaher III

This case involved a sting operation in which New Britain Police Officer, and Task Force Officer Rodney Williams posed online as a thirteen year old girl. In an unusually brief exchange of internet messages, over a period of just five weeks, the defendant made clear his wish to travel from Dracut, Massachusetts, to Connecticut in order to engage in sexual relations with the girl. The defendant's decision to travel came on very short notice, requiring exceptionally quick action by Officer Williams in preparing for the arrest and for searches in multiple locations.

Doucette arrived in Connecticut and checked into a hotel. Detective Williams and other members of the task force, armed with arrest and search warrants, apprehended Doucette and searched his hotel room and his car. Through prior arrangements, Massachusetts agents carried

out a search of Doucette's residence in Dracut. The search of the hotel room yielded a variety of camera equipment and sexual aids.

Faced with the overwhelming evidence accumulated by Officer Williams, Doucette confessed and pleaded guilty to an information without the need for an indictment. He was convicted of traveling interstate in an attempt to engage in sexual relations with a minor. On April 12th, Judge Alvin W. Thompson sentenced Doucette to more than five years' imprisonment to be followed by fifteen years of supervised release.

**Officer Rodney Williams**

**New Britain Police Department**

**United States v. Eric Hopkins**

*Docket No. 3:03CR284(SRU)*

AUSA John A. Danaher III

In July 2003, in the first sting operation carried out by the Computer Crimes Task Force, undercover officer Scott Driscoll posed as a thirteen year old girl engaged in internet chat conversations with Eric Hopkins, a resident of Margate, Florida. A check of Hopkins' screen profile revealed that he was looking for a "younger, submissive woman." In the course of the chats, Hopkins discussed the fact that he had dealt with other children, that he wanted a child to come live with him, both as a totally submissive sex partner and also to live like his "daughter." Hopkins told the undercover officer that he would travel to Connecticut for the purpose of bringing his "daughter" to Florida to live. At one point, he stated that the child should bring a birth certificate because she would need it in years to come.

Hopkins drove from southern Florida across the Georgia line where he was arrested and, confronted with the evidence developed by Officer Driscoll, confessed. Officer Driscoll orchestrated searches of Hopkins' apartment in Florida, his car in Georgia and his computer. Among the items found in the apartment were photographs of Hopkins and another child sex partner, as well as a videotape showing Hopkins with yet other young teen sex partners. Officer Driscoll, through dedicated and painstaking work, identified other children with whom Hopkins had contact, and also identified the girls in the videotape. The FBI in Florida is now investigating possible charges related to the videotape and the photographs.

On April 8, 2004, Judge Underhill sentenced Hopkins to seven years' imprisonment. Thanks to the efforts of Officer Driscoll, this predator, who had victimized numerous children over the years, was arrested for the first time, has been convicted, and will not be in a position to assault children for many years to come.

**Officer Scott Driscoll**

**Glastonbury Police Department**

**United States v. Michael Spero**

AUSA John A. Danaher III

In February 2003, Michael Spero, a forty-one year old anesthesiologist, was arrested in New Jersey for sexually assaulting a fifteen year old boy. He was released on bail, and promptly went back on the internet, trolling for more victims. He came to Connecticut in May 2003, having posed online as a twenty-three year old medical student. He took another fifteen year old boy to a motel on the Berlin Turnpike where he sexually abused that boy. The boy made a report to the police after Spero left, and thereafter Special Agent Kathy Shumaker assumed the child's persona on the internet. Spero soon made additional contact and scheduled another visit to Connecticut in June 2003. When he arrived, he was arrested.

Spero's prosecution was complicated by his bizarre behavior in court, including a faked heart attack at his first appearance. Ultimately, however, he pleaded guilty to traveling interstate to engage in sexual relations with a minor. Spero has been made available to New Jersey authorities for the purpose of pleading guilty to criminal charges in that state, after which he will be returned to Connecticut to be sentenced by Judge Droney.

Special Agent Shumaker's excellent investigative work left a highly recalcitrant criminal no choice but to plead guilty. Consequently, a calculating and determined predator has been incapacitated.

**Special Agent Kathy Dee Shumaker**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States v. Donnaann Dambro**

*Docket No. 3:03CR248(EBB)*

AUSA Kari A. Dooley

**United States v. Bernabe Diaz**

*Docket No. 3:03CR223(EBB)*

AUSA Kari A. Dooley

DUSA John H. Durham

In April 2003, the Danbury Police Department received a complaint from a minor girl that included allegations that both her mother and her mother's boyfriend, Bernabe Diaz, had engaged in sexual activity with the child from the time she was 13 until the time she was 15. The complaint further included allegations that the mother had created video tapes of some of the sexual activity and that she had provided them to Diaz. Diaz was known to the Danbury Police Department as he was a former officer with that department and was, at the time the allegations surfaced, a criminal defense lawyer in Danbury.

During the execution of a search warrant at Diaz' home, the Danbury police contacted the FBI for assistance in evaluating computer evidence. The Officers and agents seized digital video equipment, hard drives and several digital cassettes. Sadly, the allegations proved accurate, as three separate digital cassettes which depicted the minor were seized from Diaz' home. Diaz and Dambro were charged with conspiracy to produce and the production of child pornography. The State of Connecticut charged Diaz and Dambro with sexual assault and related felonies. In a combined federal and state effort, both were ultimately convicted in both courts, Diaz pleading guilty only on the morning of his federal jury selection after the officer and agents had expended considerable time preparing their respective cases for trial.

The investigators in this case had the difficult task of interviewing on several occasions, the minor victim. Numerous other witnesses were contacted, many of whom were minors or who were related to the various persons involved. The investigators were tireless in their efforts to pursue every lead, however delicately the situation required. Diaz' and Dambro's pleas and sentences are a credit to their hard work. Diaz is scheduled to be sentenced on June 24, 2004 and Dambro on June 25, 2004, when they both face the imposition of stiff sentences.

**Special Agent Conor I. Phoenix  
Special Agent Jeff Alan Rovelli  
Detective Sergeant Mark Williams  
Detective Rachel Halas  
Sergeant Matthew J. McNally IV  
Inspector Richard C. Lindberg**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Danbury Police Department  
Danbury Police Department  
Danbury Police Department  
Danbury State's Attorney's Office**

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S  
ANTI-TERRORISM ADVISORY COUNCIL**

AUSA John A. Danaher III

The United States Attorney's Office has, as its highest priority, the disruption and prevention of terrorist activity. That priority includes the commitment to devote all necessary resources to the prosecution of those responsible for terrorist activities.

The challenge posed by this highest priority is daunting. The tasks involved are innumerable and require constant attention and effort. The establishment of effective means of communication and information exchange at all levels of law enforcement is a task that is as important as it is challenging. Providing anti-terrorism training at all levels of law enforcement is critically important and exceptionally draining on resources. Our effort to carry out projects designed to harden Connecticut's infrastructure is equally resource-intensive and is one of the most important elements of our anti-terrorism strategy.

The District of Connecticut is meeting the anti-terrorism challenges that we face, and our successes are frequently attributable to the dedicated efforts of Special Agent Kenneth Gray, Jr. He has been an unwavering supporter of the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council from its inception. Special Agent Gray has never failed to support the ATAC, whether by assisting with training tasks, effectuating an initiative of the Department of Justice, offering solutions to the problems associated with drawing together diverse components of law enforcement, or by his unflagging efforts to exercise personal initiative when he identifies a problem that needs a solution. For example, immediately after the terrorist attacks in Spain in March 2004, Special Agent Gray proposed an emergency meeting of the ATAC in order to provide a briefing on the facts behind the attack and to identify the security issues facing the railroad systems in Connecticut. This is but one example of Special Agent Gray's exceptional commitment to his most-important assignment in the fight against terrorism.

The United States Attorney's Office expresses its deep appreciation to Special Agent Kenneth Gray for his efforts in support of Connecticut's ATAC.

**Special Agent Kenneth E. Gray, Jr.**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States v. Gary S. Blonder and Laura Z. Schwartz**

*Docket No. 3:02CR311(AWT)*

AUSA James Genco  
AUSA Lisa Perkins  
AUSA Christine Sciarrino

Gary S. Blonder is a Hartford area businessman who was convicted of bank fraud in 1996 and wire fraud in 1999. As part of the bank fraud sentence, he was ordered to make restitution to the FDIC in the amount of \$2.7 million. While attempting to locate assets to compel Blonder's compliance with this order, SA Kenneth Meyd discovered that Blonder was concealing assets by buying and selling property in the name of his girlfriend, Laura Z. Schwartz. For almost two years, SA Meyd, who works out of Washington, D.C., traveled to Connecticut on a regular basis to doggedly pursue every account of Blonder's. After a great deal of digging and skillful detective work, SA Meyd proved that Blonder was living the high life and avoiding his restitution payments by paying for every personal expense, including meals, housing, cars, etc, in the name of his closely held corporate entities. The secret of Blonder's success was to not keep records. In the end, through a tremendous effort, diligence, and skillful accounting practices, SA Meyd was able to prove that Blonder was indeed hiding assets and that he had lied to his probation officers about his financial activities. Furthermore, SA Meyd was able to prove that Blonder had lied on interrogatories served on him by the U.S. Attorney's Office's Financial Litigation Unit.

Blonder was indicted by a grand jury in October 2002 on charges of concealing assets from the FDIC and making false statements to the Government. On August 26, 2003, he pleaded guilty to making a false statement to the Government. Sentencing is scheduled for later this summer.

Schwartz, who early in the investigation was interviewed by SA Meyd and warned that she was committing a crime by filling out false bank loan applications and serving as a straw borrower for Blonder, but continued to assist him anyway, was indicted with Blonder and pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting in the concealment of assets from the FDIC. On December 1, 2003, she was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

**Special Agent J. Kenneth Meyd**

**Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
Office of the Inspector General  
Office of Investigations  
Washington, D.C.**

## **OPERATION FIESTA BOWL**

### **United States v. Samuel Virella, et al**

*Docket No. 3:02CR191 (CFD)*

### **United States v. Joshua Cordero, et al**

*Docket No. 3:02CR187 (CFD)*

AUSA Michael J. Gustafson

AUSA Raymond F. Miller

In late 2001, the FBI's Meriden Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force developed information that a Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization (MDTO) had recently moved to fill the void created by the Task Force's successful 2000-2001 OCDETF Operation dubbed "Silver City Crackdown," an investigation and prosecution of a large scale Dominican cocaine and crack cocaine distribution organization.

The Task Force discovered that the MDTO was run locally by several brothers who took turns alternating between Connecticut, Phoenix, Arizona and Sinaloa and Culiacan Mexico. The Task Force analyzed toll records, developed historical information, made controlled purchases of crack cocaine from mid-level members of the group and demonstrated a pattern of activity that allowed them to obtain court authorization to conduct wiretaps on the telephones of Samuel Virella, the MDTO's major customer, and Jose Romero-Machado, the head of the MDTO in Connecticut. Between May 8 and June 24, 2002, the Task Force intercepted hundreds of pertinent telephone conversations and conducted untold hours of physical surveillance. The Task Force's efforts were rewarded on June 24, 2002, when early morning raids resulted in the arrest of thirty narcotics traffickers, twenty-three of whom were indicted federally in July 2002. Of these federal defendants, all have pleaded guilty. Sentences as high as fourteen years have been meted out and five defendants will be deported to Mexico upon serving their sentences.

In addition to the number of convictions and sentences, the Task Force's efforts resulted in the seizure of five firearms (including an AK-47) and over eight kilograms of cocaine as well as several pounds of marijuana. The defendants also forfeited a Sebring Convertible and a Mercedes 300 CE.

**Special Agent Mark S. Gentil**  
**Special Agent Eric S. Grunder**  
**Special Agent Stephen J. Back**

**(Ret) Detective Charles Grady**  
**Detective John Testa**  
**Detective Lue Sobeiraj**  
**Detective Robert Milsagle**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**U. S. Department of Homeland Security,**  
**Immigration and Customs Enforcement**  
**TFO, Hamden Police Department**  
**TFO, Hamden Police Department**  
**TFO, Meriden Police Department**  
**TFO, Meriden Police Department**

## **OPERATION SAFEHAVEN**

### **United States v. Terry Katz**

*Docket No. 3:03CR280(EBB)*

### **United States v. Travis Myers**

*Docket No. 3:03CR278(EBB)*

### **United States v. Walter Kapechuk**

*Docket No. 3:03CR279(EBB)*

### **United States v. Warren Willsey**

*Docket No. 3:03CR281(EBB)*

### **United States v. Ross Ishida**

*Docket No. 3:04CR12(EBB)*

### **United States v. Manpreet Singh**

*Docket No. 3:04CR42(EBB)*

AUSA Shawn J. Chen  
CCIPS Trial Attorney Kenneth L. Doroshow  
AUSA Mark G. Califano

Building on the success of “Operation Buccaneer,” which was previously the largest investigation of online criminal copyright infringement, “Operation Safehaven” targeted an even broader swath of warez participants. The investigation culminated in April 2003 with the simultaneous execution of over twenty search warrants nationwide, resulting in the seizure of thousands of pirated CDs and DVDs, plus dozens of computers and servers, including the largest warez site ever seized in the United States to date. These defendants were all prosecuted as a result of Operation Safehaven, a fifteen-month investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) and the ICE Cyber Crimes Center, in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut and the Department of Justice, Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section (“CCIPS”).

The defendants were participants in the “warez scene” -- an underground online community that consists of individuals and organized groups who use the Internet to engage in the large-scale, illegal distribution of copyrighted software. In the warez scene, certain participants (known as “suppliers”) are able to obtain access to copyrighted software, video games, DVD movies, and MP3 music files, often before those titles are available to the general public. Other participants (known as “crackers”) then use their technical skills to circumvent or “crack” the digital copyright protections; and yet others (known as “couriers”) distribute the pirated software to various file servers on the Internet for others to access, reproduce, and further distribute. It is not uncommon for a single piece of pirated software or media to be quickly

distributed on hundreds of thousands of servers, each of which is accessed by multiple individuals who copy and use the software or media, instead of buying it legitimately.

The investigators in this case had the difficult task of tracking down scores of individuals and computer systems used in this illegal warez operation, reviewing immense amounts of computer data and communications logs in order to identify the systems and individuals involved. They interviewed dozens of individuals and have been tireless in their efforts to pursue the leads in this matter. The continued success of this investigation and the prosecutions that have resulted are a credit to their hard work.

**Special Agent Peter Ross**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

**Investigative Analyst David Collins**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

**Special Agent Michael Godfrey**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

**United States v. Advanced Technical Systems, et al.**

*Docket No. 3:02CR247(DJS)*

AUSA Robert M. Appleton

In this post-September 11, 2001 era, it is hard to imagine criminal conduct more reprehensible than supplying munitions and related items to countries hostile to the United States and its interests. This prosecution involved individuals who were doing just that.

Advanced Technical Systems (“ATS”), located in the United Arab Emirates, was in the business of procuring munitions and related items from U.S. manufacturers and then diverting those items to prohibited and embargoed countries in the Middle East. The investigation disclosed that ATS’s principals, Tariq Ahmed and his wife Yasmin Ahmed, procured arms and munitions components for well over a decade from various U.S. manufacturers and then diverted those items throughout the world.

Special Agents from U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration & Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Commerce and Defense Criminal Investigative Service began an investigation of ATS in early 2001 when the company submitted an application to the U.S. State Department to send parts for a military radar system to the Bangladeshi Air Force. The State Department was suspicious of the bona fides of the application and referred the matter to Customs in New Haven for investigation. A lengthy investigation ensued which confirmed that the application submitted by ATS was fraudulent and that the Bangladeshi military had not ordered the items for which the permit was sought.

In an effort to identify the principals in ATS, agents from Customs, Commerce and DCIS, acting in an undercover capacity, pursued the order for the military radar system by communicating with the targets via e-mail with the assistance of the Connecticut company from which the items were ordered. Eventually, the munitions items were shipped to ATS with a tracking device imbedded in the container. The tracking device demonstrated that indeed the parts were not destined for Bangladesh, but rather, were destined for Pakistan.

The undercover investigation succeeded in identifying Yasmin Ahmed as a principal of ATS who was using the alias Fatimmah Mohammed when dealing with U.S. companies. A grand jury returned an indictment against Ahmed in 2001 and an arrest warrant issued. The continuing investigation disclosed that in 2002 the Ahmeds and ATS placed an additional order with a Connecticut company for military components. After learning of this order, the agents succeeded in an attempt to lure Yasmin Ahmed to the United States for an ostensible meeting with the Connecticut company. In the fall of 2002, Ahmed arrived at Kennedy Airport where she was met by Customs agents posing as limousine drivers replete with a placard with Yasmin’s name. Ahmed thought she was getting the royal treatment until she realized that her coach was taking her to the U.S. Courthouse in Bridgeport. She ended her day at Niantic prison.

Rather than terminating the investigation based on the arrest, the agents used the arrest as a stepping stone to further their investigation. It was determined that Yasmin’s husband,

Tariq Ahmed, who was educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Northwestern, was continuing to obtain military parts, including parts for howitzer cannons and armored personnel carriers, from other manufacturers around the country for export. The investigation further disclosed that the Ahmeds were using a Florida company, Haller Inc., to facilitate the export of military hardware to Pakistan. As a consequence of the investigation into Haller Inc., agents learned that military parts had been shipped from Charleston, South Carolina destined for the United Arab Emirates. Agents were able to arrange to have the ship turned around and the illegal export thwarted. A search warrant for the business premises of Haller Inc. was obtained and the resulting search confirmed that Haller was a conspirator in the illegal export scheme.

The agents dogged pursuit of this matter for approximately 3 years led to the indictment and conviction of the Florida corporation, Haller Inc., and its principal officer, Alan Haller. Both pleaded guilty in Connecticut to violations of the Arms Export Control Act. The company was sentenced and fined \$50,000 by Senior Judge Ellen Bree Burns and Alan Haller was sentenced to a two year term of imprisonment.

The prospects of extraditing Tariq Ahmed were slim but, ultimately, Tariq Ahmed was persuaded to voluntarily submit to the jurisdiction of the Court in Connecticut in order to share responsibility for the illegal exports of munitions with his wife who had been in custody since the date of her arrest. Both Yasmin and Tariq Ahmed entered pleas of guilty to violations of the Arms Export Control Act and were sentenced to terms of incarceration. The success of this investigation and prosecution is directly linked to the tireless efforts of the following Special Agents:

**Senior Special Agent Seth T. Taylor**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement**

**Special Agent Thomas Porro**

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Industry and Security  
Office of Export Enforcement**

**Special Agent Michael J. Campion**

**Defense Criminal Investigative  
Service**

**United States v. Rotair Industries Inc.**

*Docket No. 3:04CR123(JBA)*

AUSA Robert M. Appleton

In early 2000, agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigrations & Customs Enforcement learned that military defense articles manufactured by Rotair were being diverted by a Malaysian company to Iran, an embargoed country. Rotair is a Bridgeport, Connecticut based company in the business of manufacturing military components for helicopters and other military aircraft. After agents confirmed that Rotair did not seek, or gain, permission from the U.S. State Department to export military components abroad, Customs agents in New Haven began an undercover operation. Initially, Special Agent David L. Conboy, acting in an undercover capacity and purporting to be an agent of an Austrian company, began negotiations with Rotair for the purchase of military items. Later, Special Agent Peter Ross also assumed an undercover role and began to negotiate with Herbert Harrington, the principal owner of Rotair, in an effort to collect evidence of Rotair's illegal export of restricted munitions and munition supplies. During the course of the undercover investigation, Rotair made several sales of munitions items to undercover agents including black hawk helicopter parts that Rotair shipped to an undercover company in London, England without seeking State Department approval.

In the summer of 2003, a search warrant was executed at Rotair's business premises in Bridgeport. During the search, the son of the owner attempted to frustrate the search by dismantling his computer as the agents were entering the premises.

Rotair has pleaded guilty to an Information charging it with violations of the Arms Export Control Act. Rotair was ordered to pay a \$500,000 fine. Rotair faces debarment and the loss of their contract with the Army, which constitutes more than 75% of its business. Rotair has also entered into a corporate integrity agreement which, *inter alia*, requires strict compliance with all export requirements and regulations. In addition, as part of the plea, Herbert Harrington has agreed to leave the company. Wesley Harrington, the son, has pleaded guilty to an Information charging him with obstructing the execution of the search warrant.

**Assistant Director David L. Conboy**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement  
Strategic Investigations Division**

**Special Agent Peter Ross**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement**

**United States v. Gary Agnew**  
*Docket No. 3:03CR241(JCH)*

AUSA Maria A. Kahn  
AUSA Krishna R. Patel

Gary R. Agnew, age fifty-three of Bristol, a former employee of the U.S. Postal Service at the Hartford Processing and Distribution Center, engaged in a scheme to defraud the United States by collecting close to \$5,000 per month in tax exempt disability payments from the U.S. Postal Service and the Veteran's Administration while claiming to be totally disabled when, in fact, he was working virtually full-time as a used car salesman at a dealership on the Berlin Turnpike in Berlin, CT. The indictment charged Agnew with fraudulently concealing the fact that he worked at the used car dealership from the government by, among other things, arranging for paychecks to be directed to his wife. On the claim which was the subject of the trial, Agnew collected approximately \$173,000 in disability payments and over \$100,000 in subsequent medical costs reimbursement. After a seven day trial, the jury found Gary Agnew guilty of fifteen counts of mail fraud and one count of fraud under the Federal Employees Compensation Act. The Honorable Janet C. Hall will sentence Agnew on June 18, 2004. At that time eighteen additional worker's compensation claims Agnew filed will be considered relevant conduct for purposes of sentencing.

The success of this case was the direct result of the dedication, skill and attention to detail exhibited by the case agent, U.S. Postal Inspector Douglas Millett. Inspector Millett conducted extensive visual, video and electronic surveillance that was essential to proving Agnew's pattern of activity and fraudulent scheme. In addition to the extensive investigation, Inspector Millett worked long hours to prepare the case for trial. The trial had its share of challenges, including several hostile witnesses who employed a variety of tactics in an effort to undermine the Government's case. Inspector Millett's work was invaluable to the successful results achieved in the trial of this matter.

**Inspector Douglas Millett**

**United States Postal Inspection Service**

**Russo v. City of Hartford**  
**Docket No. 3:97CV2380(JCH)**

AUSA William A. Collier  
AUSA Alan M. Soloway

During the summer of 2002, several of the defendants in consolidated civil cases pending before Judge Janet C. Hall served subpoenas duces tecum on the United States Attorney's Office seeking records pertaining to a criminal investigation of corruption in the Hartford Police Department. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut determined that it would be better to have an AUSA from another district defend against the subpoenas, and AUSA David Plourde of the District of New Hampshire agreed to take on the task. In what became very fractious litigation, AUSA Plourde responded to the subpoenas, providing responsive documentation, challenging the disclosure of immaterial and privileged information, and defending at the depositions of several law enforcement personnel.

Not only did AUSA Plourde admirably defend against the subpoenas and provide representation for the law enforcement officials, but he was then rewarded for his efforts by being named as a defendant in a vexatious and frivolous suit brought by the plaintiff in the cases before Judge Hall. The suit was quickly dismissed by the court on the defendants' motion, but AUSA Plourde's hard work and willingness to assist the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Connecticut add credence to the maxim that no good deed goes unpunished.

**T. David Plourde**  
**Assistant United States Attorney**

**District of New Hampshire**

**United States v. Arnold Bell**  
*Docket No. 3:03CR230 (AHN)*

DUSA John H. Durham  
AUSA Anthony E. Kaplan  
AUSA Karen L. Peck

On the evening of June 13, 2002, Officer Robert Fumiatti and fellow members of the New Haven Police Department's Narcotics Enforcement Unit observed an individual who was dressed in a full camouflage outfit engaging in conduct which was believed to involve the distribution of narcotics. After observing this activity, a decision was made to approach the individual to determine his identity and the nature of his conduct. Officer Fumiatti was the first person to step out of an unmarked police vehicle, and upon doing so he was immediately felled by a single shot fired by the individual outfitted in the camouflage suit. The individual in fact had shot Officer Fumiatti in the face with a .38 caliber revolver. Miraculously, Officer Fumiatti survived the shooting.

Based on outstanding police work done on the night of June 13, 2002, into the early morning hours of June 14, 2002 by members of the New Haven Police Department and numerous other law enforcement agencies which responded to the scene, approximately four hours after the shooting incident Arnold Bell, a career offender, was taken into custody by members of the New Haven Police Department's SWAT Team.

While the apprehension of Bell was a tremendous accomplishment, ultimately it was the diligent efforts of Detective Herbert Johnson of the New Haven Police Department, Special Agent Mark Gentil (FBI) and Special Agent Jeff Waterman (FBI), who worked tirelessly with Inspector Ernest Lazaro of the New Haven State's Attorney's Office, which developed the evidence essential to proving it was Arnold Bell who had shot Officer Fumiatti and then fled the scene. These investigators confronted and dealt with conflicting forensic evidence in the case, tracked down, interviewed and secured the cooperation of critical witnesses to the incident, and doggedly persisted in the investigation of the case through the grand jury process.

As a result of the exceptional work of Detective Johnson, Special Agents Gentil and Waterman, the grand jury indicted Bell on charges relating to narcotics distribution, possession of a firearm in connection with the distribution of narcotics, and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. In February 2004, Detective Johnson, Special Agents Gentil and Waterman, and Inspector Lazaro worked countless hours as the Bell case was prepared for trial and then tried. After two weeks of evidence on the felon in possession charge, a Bridgeport jury found the defendant Bell guilty of being a convicted felon who possessed a firearm on June 13, 2002 and, by necessity, was the individual who shot Officer Fumiatti. Bell was sentenced

recently in state court to forty-five years' imprisonment. He faces up to lifetime imprisonment on his federal conviction when he is sentenced by The Honorable Alan H. Nevas later this month.

**Detective Herbert Johnson**  
**Special Agent Mark S. Gentil**  
**Special Agent Jeffrey D. Waterman**  
**Inspector Ernest Lazaro**

**New Haven Department of Police Services**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**New Haven State's Attorney's Office**

**United States v. Michael Saad**  
*Docket No. 3:03CR246(PCD)*

AUSA Shawn J. Chen

In November of 2000, employees from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection halted an unauthorized demolition project at the InterRoyal Mill in Plainfield, Connecticut. The Mill contained over 1,500 square feet of hazardous asbestos, some of which had been disturbed during demolition and released into the surrounding environment. EPA-CID and the Plainfield police worked together to build a criminal case against the demolition contractor and anyone else involved in authorizing his unlawful activity. Over three dozen witnesses were interviewed, and dozens of boxes of documents were reviewed, some of which indicated that one or more public officials at the Plainfield Town Hall may have been complicit. When it appeared that certain documents provided by the Town of Plainfield were drastically incomplete, law enforcement officers executed a search and seizure warrant at the Town Hall and obtained numerous additional boxes of documents that had not been provided earlier.

Following a thorough investigation, the demolition contractor pleaded guilty. Afterwards, an indictment was brought against Michael Saad, the former Second Selectman for the Town of Plainfield and its current Economic Development Director. Saad proceeded to trial in March and April 2004. Special Agent Metjahic and Deputy Chief Hoffman worked tirelessly to assist the prosecution in understanding the complex scientific evidence and the (even more complex) workings of Plainfield Town Hall. After a two-week trial, the jury unanimously convicted Saad of authorizing the unlawful demolition activity and the mishandling of asbestos. Saad is currently awaiting sentencing.

**Special Agent Senad M. Metjahic**  
**Deputy Chief Robert Hoffman**

**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Plainfield Police Department**

**United States v. Frank S. Chuang and LC Associates**

*Docket No. 3:03CR22(AVC)*

AUSA Maria A. Kahn  
AUSA William J. Nardini  
AUSA Alan M. Soloway

Frank S. Chuang, an engineer and owner of an engineering and construction services firm in Connecticut, and his company, LC Associates Inc, were charged in a thirty count indictment in connection with a scheme to defraud the Federal Highway Administration and several state transportation agencies, by submitting fraudulent invoices. Chuang accomplished his scheme by falsifying employee time records and shifting costs on contracts to increase his company's reimbursement. The investigation also disclosed that from 1995 through 2000, Chuang diverted corporate receipts totaling \$4,340,949.20 into one of his personal bank accounts and in so doing evaded \$1,694,730 in individual income taxes. Chuang was a licensed engineer in the State of Connecticut and his company was a contractor with various state and federal DOT's and private companies, working on major construction projects in New England. Chuang and LC operated offices in Wethersfield, Connecticut and New York. On September 24, 2003, Chuang pled guilty to three counts of mail fraud and one count of tax fraud. The Honorable Alfred V. Covello will sentence Chuang in August of 2004.

As part of the plea agreement, the defendant has paid criminal restitution in the amount of \$ 5,365,423.19, which includes damages and penalties to resolve both the contract and tax fraud charges. In addition to Chuang's criminal plea, LC Associates entered into a civil settlement under the False Claims Act, which resulted in an additional recovery of \$3,400,000. As part of a global settlement, the defendant also agreed to divest any ownership interest and control over LC Associates or related entities. The defendants also entered into separate corporate agreements with the Government to ensure future compliance with federal and state regulations, including audits and monitoring by Connecticut DOT.

The success of this case was the direct result of the dedication, skill and attention to detail exhibited by Special Agent Hinson of the U.S. DOT and Special Agent Amy Hosney of the IRS. This case involved the execution of a search warrant at the engineering firm and exhaustive auditing work of the Account Examiners Johnson and Alfredson from the Connecticut DOT, who, along with Agent Hinson, reviewed hundreds of time, inventory and equipments records, identified and pieced together the documents that proved the fraudulent scheme. They also developed extensive loss calculations charts. Their work was invaluable to the success of this case.

**Special Agent Leigh Hinson**

**Special Agent Amy Hosney**

**David Alfredson**

**Supervising Account Examiner**

**Dan Johnson**

**Account Examiner**

**U.S. Department of Transportation,**

**Office of Inspector General**

**Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation**

**Connecticut Department of Transportation,**

**Division of Internal Audits**

**Connecticut Department of Transportation,**

**Division of Internal Audits**

**United States v. Lashaunda Crymes**

*Docket No. 3:02CR377(JBA)*

AUSA Raymond F. Miller  
AUSA Julie G. Turbert

This case involves a multi-district investigation by the FBI that resulted in the arrest and conviction of a defendant who defrauded a Connecticut charity. The stolen funds were recovered and the victim charity received full restitution.

On December 4, 2002, Lashaunda Crymes sent a fax from the Days Inn Airport Hotel outside of Cleveland, Ohio to a Merrill Lynch office located in Middletown, Connecticut. Posing as a representative from Save the Children, a Connecticut-based charity, she requested that \$225,000.00 be wired from the charity's Merrill Lynch account to a gold coin dealer located in San Marcos, California. Merrill Lynch wired the money.

On the same day the money was wired, the defendant, using the alias of Hazel Harrison, placed an order for \$225,000.00 in gold coins with the California company and instructed that the coins be shipped to Hazel Harrison at an address of an unoccupied retail establishment. The company sent 672 gold coins worth \$225,000.

At the time of the crime, the defendant was living in a hotel near the Cleveland airport and working for a rental car company. The defendant retrieved the coins delivered to "Hazel Harrison" and sold a number of the gold coins to local coin dealers.

After receiving a complaint from Save the Children and Merrill Lynch, the Connecticut FBI quickly coordinated with Special Agents working in the Cleveland area. They were able to trace the original fax back to the Days Inn Hotel near the Cleveland Airport. After examining the hotel's log of outgoing faxes and interviewing several hotel employees, the agents ascertained that the defendant sent the fax. The Ohio agents were able to locate the defendant at her job, but she denied any knowledge of the theft of the Save the Children funds. The FBI executed two federal search warrants and discovered that the defendant had 40 gold coins in her purse, along with, \$6,771 in cash and a check from the a local coin shop for \$6,600. A search of her apartment uncovered 569 additional gold coins in a duffel bag. The agents also found information obtained from the web site [www.escapeartist.com](http://www.escapeartist.com), which invites people to "restart their lives overseas." After the gold coins were forfeited to the United States following the defendant's conviction, the money raised from their sale was sufficient to fully compensate the victim for all of its financial losses.

Further, the searches revealed a large number of documents that directly linked the defendant to twelve other, unsolved frauds against charities that held brokerage accounts with Merrill Lynch. In sum, the evidence gathered implicated the defendant in frauds or attempted frauds against eleven other charities located in nine other states. All of these crimes were resolved within the context of the Connecticut prosecution.

**Special Agent Michael Cuff**  
**Special Agent Timothy Kolonick**  
**Special Agent James J. Rossini**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation (Cleveland, OH)**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States v. Kenneth Moore**  
*Docket No. 3:03CR78(SRU)*

AUSA Robert M. Spector

Over the course of his criminal career, Kenneth Moore has stolen money from individuals and companies in so many different ways that one could hardly detect a pattern, except in his general deceit and dishonesty. On his rap sheet, you will find numerous convictions for forgery, writing bad checks and larceny. In fact, while on pretrial release for the current federal offense, he worked for a mortgage company and handled the house closing for his own brother. He took two checks meant for his brother's creditors (American Express and Citibank), deposited them into his mother's People's Bank account and used the money for himself. This is Kenneth Moore, the used car salesman of white collar criminals, the kind of guy who would steal your credit card information while selling you a monthly service to protect your cards from identity theft. In fact, in this case, that is almost what he did. He owned his own alarm installation company. He would install alarm systems for a parent company and receive commissions based on the number of systems installed. As an aside and separate and apart from the federal case, we discovered that Moore had learned how to mimic the signal of the alarm system so that he could make the parent company think he had installed many more alarm systems than he had actually installed and get paid a commissions on those systems; he had a 70% attrition rate. On one occasion, he installed a system for Bobby Wade. Unbeknownst to Mr. Wade, Moore stole his date of birth and social security number from the security system application and began using them to apply for credit cards. In about a year's time, Moore had accumulated well over \$100,000 in debt in Wade's name. In addition to the credit card spending, Moore had purchased a \$40,000 boat in Wade's name, a \$35,000 Mercedes, and two Chevy-S10 pickup trucks. In addition, he had paid for his own daughter's wedding using Wade's name. In an additional scheme which was prosecuted as part of of this identity theft case, Moore stole a bank statement from the mailbox of one of his neighbors in an office park where his security company was located. He used the statement to request an ATM card and can be seen on several surveillance images withdrawing large amounts of cash from the account. In total, including his other victims, Moore spent over \$200,000 using other people's identities. Moore entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to forty-three months' imprisonment by Judge Underhill. Moore was also ordered to pay more than \$209,000 in restitution.

**Inspector Paul Hinman**  
**Detective Thomas Russell**  
**Inspector Thomas Trocchio**  
**Detective Donald Remillard**

**United States Postal Inspection Service**  
**East Haven Police Department**  
**Milford State's Attorney's Office**  
**Hamden Police Department**

**United States v. Steven Smith**  
*Docket No. 3:03CR344(EBB)*

AUSA Raymond F. Miller

This case involves a defendant who devised an internet scheme to defraud older, homosexual men by posing as a younger homosexual man who was wrongly imprisoned. As a result of this scheme, the defendant obtained over \$60,000 in cash from over two dozen victims. The criminal scheme perpetrated in this case was virtually identical to that portrayed in the popular John Grisham novel, *“The Bretheren.”*

In the spring of 2003, the defendant used the screen name of “Stevenyounger” and placed an advertisement on “GaySweetHeartz.com.,” an Internet dating site catering to gay individuals. The advertisement falsely represented that “Steven” was a 21 year old gay man who had been rejected by his parents and was presently incarcerated. Further, the advertisement indicated that “Steven” was seeking guidance from an older man. During the course of executing his scheme, the defendant caused several other, similar advertisements to be placed on other Internet sites.

After the defendant received a response to his advertisement, he would initiate a written correspondence with the victim. He directed the victims to send letters to him at “Chesire Heights,” which he claimed was a state prison in Bristol. The letters the victims received from Smith bore a red stamp that made the letter appear to be inmate mail. The address Smith gave for the “prison” was actually a commercial mail drop in Bristol. Surveillance by the USPIS revealed that Smith would make daily visits to the mail drop and routinely received large amounts of mail. He would then often go directly to a bank and make a deposit.

During the course of Smith’s correspondence with his victims, he would mail the victim a picture of a young male, indicating that it was a photograph of him. Smith is actually a forty-three year old man with thirty-one prior convictions. As the correspondence progressed, the defendant would ask for small amounts of money for stamps and to spend at the prison commissary. Eventually, the defendant would inform the victim that he had submitted an application to his counselor, “Mr. Green,” for the “early release” program. Smith indicated that he needed a sponsor and money, often several thousand dollars, to secure his early release. The defendant, posing as “Mr. Green,” would call the victim to arrange for payment.

In the course of this scheme, the defendant defrauded at least twenty-eight victims residing in eighteen different states across the United States, from Maine to California, and at least one Canadian resident residing in British Columbia. His scheme netted him approximately \$64,600.

In this case, Postal Inspector Martin Vega did a superb job unraveling the criminal scheme and building a case by identifying and developing what were obviously reluctant witnesses from coast-to-coast.

Once the scheme was uncovered, Smith was arrested and ultimately entered a plea of guilty to mail fraud. On June 1, 2004, the defendant was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

**Inspector Martin Vega**

**United States Postal Inspection Service**

## **OPERATION GOAL TENDER**

### **United States v. Gustavo Florez**

*Docket No. 3:03CR102(JBA)*

### **United States v. Jairo Calderon**

*Docket No. 3:03CR95(PCD)*

### **United States v. Libardo Zapata-Zuluaga, a/k/a “Tato”**

*Docket No. 3:03CR371(RNC)*

### **United States v. Rodolfo Duque, et al.**

*Docket No. 3:03CR125(SRU)*

### **United States v. Oscar DeJesus Chalarca-Espinal, et al**

*Docket No. 3:03CR251(JBA)*

### **United States v. Alvaro Emelio Gonzalez-Rodriguez, et al**

*Docket No. 3:03CR250(JBA)*

### **United States v. Miguel Nunez, et al**

*Docket No. 3:03CR202(AVC)*

### **United States v. Javier Echeverri**

*Docket No. 3:03CR173(SRU)*

AUSA Mark D. Rubino

The Bridgeport Drug Task Force, consisting of agents and officers from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Stamford Police Department, the Fairfield Police Department, the Norwalk Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, successfully dismantled a major narcotics-trafficking organization headed by Libardo Humberto Zuluaga-Zapata, a/k/a “Tato” and Gustavo Florez. This organization was responsible for the importation and distribution of multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine in the Fairfield County area.

“Operation Goal Tender” was initiated as a result of the DEA Task Force’s participation in a multi-district wiretap investigation. The investigation disclosed that Libardo Humberto Zuluaga-Zapata, a/k/a “Tato” and Alexander Dalmau were involved in drug transactions involving the exchange of heroin for cocaine. During one transaction an individual was kidnaped, transported from Connecticut to New York, threatened at gunpoint, and was ordered to pay an outstanding drug debt. The kidnap victim was ultimately released and Dalmau was arrested and prosecuted in New York.

Following the kidnaping, task force agents initiated an investigation into the drug trafficking activities of Zapata and his organization. That investigation disclosed that Zapata was still involved in the distribution of heroin and cocaine with Miguel Nunez and Gary Baez, Colombian nationals who delivered narcotics for Zapata throughout the northeast. In December of 2002, Zapata was arrested, indicted and he has since pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Kidnaping and Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Heroin. Nunez and Baez were arrested in April 2003 when they delivered one kilogram of heroin from New York to a cooperating witness in Connecticut. Zapata faces twelve years in prison when he is sentenced later this summer. Nunez and Baez also pleaded guilty and both face a minimum mandatory ten years imprisonment when they are sentenced in August.

The investigators were able to work their way up the organizational structure and determine that the source of the heroin distributed by Baez and Nunez was Javier Echeverri, a/k/a "El Mono." Echeverri has since been charged with conspiracy to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin.

The task force investigation further determined that Zapata supplied multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine to Gustavo Flores. Flores was the operator of an indoor soccer complex in Fairfield, Connecticut which, among other things, frequently catered to birthday parties for children. It was determined that Flores conspired with Colombian drug traffickers Jairo Calderon and Rodolfo Duque in the distribution of cocaine. The task force was able to make controlled purchases of cocaine from Flores, Calderon and Duque with the assistance of a confidential informant. In addition, the Task Force arrested Duque when he was in the process of purchasing one kilogram of cocaine from John Jairo Hernandez-Perez, a/k/a Julio Cesar Negron. All four have pleaded guilty. Duque and Hernandez-Perez were sentenced to five years imprisonment and will be deported after completing their sentences. Florez was sentenced to a substantial prison term and was ordered to forfeit approximately \$50,000 in drug proceeds. Calderon faces a minimum mandatory five year sentence when he is sentenced later this summer.

The investigation further disclosed that Zapata was not Flores's sole source of cocaine supply. Colombian nationals Oscar DeJesus Chalarca-Espinal, a/k/a Diego, Leonardo Martinez, a/k/a Hermes Farinas, Xiomara Henao and Alvaro Emelio Gonzalez-Rodriguez, a/k/a Toro were identified as alternate sources of supply. In August 2003, after consensually recorded conversations with members of the organization in Colombia, the Task Force made a controlled purchase of one kilogram of cocaine from Chalarca-Espinal and a second kilogram purchase from Gonzalez-Rodriguez. Both individuals were recent arrivals from Colombia for the purpose of distributing cocaine. During both transactions, Henao picked up the cocaine from Chalarca-Espinal and Gonzalez-Rodriguez in New York and delivered the cocaine to the cooperating witness in Connecticut. Leonardo Martinez was arrested when he attempted to collect the money owed to Chalarca-Espinal for the kilogram of cocaine from the CW. Chalarca-Espinal, Gonzalez-Rodriguez and Martinez have all pleaded guilty. Chalarca-Espinal and Gonzalez-Rodriguez each face a minimum mandatory five years imprisonment. Martinez is a career offender and faces approximately fifteen years imprisonment when he is sentenced. Chalarca-Espinal, Gonzalez-Rodriguez and Martinez will be deported following service of their sentence.

With the assistance of cooperating defendants, Julio Guzman was identified as a source of cocaine and marijuana supplies for Zapata. Several consensually monitored and recorded calls were made with Guzman concerning negotiations for the purchase and sale of 800 pounds of marijuana. When Guzman arrived to receive the marijuana, he was in possession of \$100,000 in cash representing the down payment for the marijuana. He was also armed with a loaded 9 mm handgun and he was wearing a bullet proof vest. An additional \$30,000 in cash was seized from his residence.

Lastly, with the assistance of some of the arrested defendants, the task force was able to arrest several of the lower-level distributors who were prosecuted in state court.

The operation was successful in dismantling a significant Colombian drug trafficking cell operating in Connecticut. In total, this operation resulted in the conviction of twenty-six individuals in federal and state court, the seizure of over three kilograms of cocaine, approximately 1.5 kilograms of heroin, five firearms and approximately \$400,000 in U.S. currency.

**Special Agent Donahue A. Hibbert**  
**Special Agent Sara M. Laccone**  
**Special Agent Michael S. Loser**

**Deputy U.S. Marshal Anthony Iaquinto**  
**Detective John A. Bucheratti**  
**Detective Brian S. Cunningham**  
**Sergeant Ashley Gonzalez**  
**Officer Christian P. DiCarlo**  
**Officer Detrich W. Hohn**

**Drug Enforcement Administration**  
**Drug Enforcement Administration**  
**U.S. Department of Homeland Security,**  
**Immigration and Customs Enforcement**  
**United States Marshals Service**  
**TFO, Fairfield Police Department**  
**TFO, Norwalk Police Department**  
**Norwalk Police Department**  
**TFO, Stamford Police Department**  
**Stamford Police Department**

**United States v. Anthony Tortorella**  
*Docket No. 3:02CR68(AWT)*

**United States v. Richard Vasquez**  
*Docket No. 3:02CR26(AWT)*

**United States v. Gregory Webb**  
*Docket No. 3:04CR27(AVC)*

AUSA Anastasia M. Enos  
AUSA Jeffrey A. Meyer

This case involved a lengthy investigation of the sexual abuse of female inmates by male federal prison guards at the federal women's prison in Danbury, Connecticut. In these cases, Agents Ferguson and May acted on widespread allegations of certain correctional officers engaging in sexual activity with inmates at the Danbury prison. They conducted numerous inmate interviews, covert video surveillance (including spending the better part of one night in a cramped closet with a video camera), search warrants, and the collection of samples for DNA testing. These extensive efforts paid off in the production of evidence to show that two of the guards (Richard Vasquez and Anthony Tortorella) engaged in sexual relations with at least ten inmates from 1998 to 2002 and that Anthony Tortorella illegally harbored one of the inmates at his home after she had been deported and snuck back into the country. The investigation further established that a third correctional officer (Gregory Webb) engaged in repeated sexual acts with another inmate.

Anthony Tortorella pleaded guilty to one count of illegally harboring an alien and one count of sexually abusing a female inmate. After cooperating against co-defendant Richard Vasquez, Tortorella was sentenced on August 27, 2003, to a term of 10 months' imprisonment. Richard Vasquez pled guilty after two days of trial in June 2003 to one count of false statement, five counts of sexual abuse of inmates, and one count of unlawful sexual contacts with a female inmate. Vasquez was sentenced on October 9, 2003, to a term of 21 months. Gregory Webb pled guilty to one count of false statement and one count of sexually abusing a female inmate. Webb is scheduled to be sentenced on June 28, 2004 by Judge Covello.

**Special Agent Stanley A. Ferguson**

**U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Inspector General  
Investigations Division**

**Special Agent Jonathan B. May**

**U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Inspector General  
Investigations Division**

**United States v. Jamil Sari, et al. (Reed)**

*Docket No. 3:02CR249(AWT)*

**United States v. Jamil Sari, et al (Mack)**

*Docket No. 3:02CR250(AWT)*

**United States v. Rosa Taveras, et al (Sanders)**

*Docket No. 3:02CR251(AWT)*

AUSA H. Gordon Hall  
AUSA Peter D. Markle

In late 2001, the New Haven Drug/Gang Task Force commenced an investigation targeting the drug trafficking activity of Richard Mack and his associates who controlled a large-scale crack trafficking operation which was based in the Quinnipiac Terrace Housing complex in New Haven, Connecticut. The eleven month investigation involved conventional surveillance, supervised purchases of cocaine base and five months of court-authorized wiretaps on eight telephones. The electronic surveillance, in conjunction with evidence derived from other law enforcement techniques, established that Mack's crack operation had a source of supply based in New York City, eventually identified as Jamil Sari, aka "Pachuco," and that Sari was also supplying two other crack distribution operations in Connecticut, one located in the Hill section of New Haven, managed and supervised by Albert Reed, Sr., and the other based in the towns of Ansonia and Derby and headed by John Sanders. Intercepted conversations, physical and videotaped surveillances, seizures and cooperating witnesses established that on a weekly basis the Mack operation was obtaining approximately one kilogram of crack cocaine; the Reed operation was obtaining approximately one-half kilogram of crack cocaine; and, the Sanders operation was obtaining between 125 to 250 grams of crack cocaine. The evidence further established that the relationship between Sari's supply organization and the three identified, Connecticut-based distribution operations existed from before 2001 through the date of arrests in the case in September 2002.

The investigation resulted in the return of three indictments, each charging the source of supply and each charging the participants in one of the Connecticut distribution operations. In all, twenty-nine individuals from New York and Connecticut were charged, and twenty-eight of those have been convicted. Sentences ranging from time served for a cooperating witness to thirteen years have been imposed. In addition, approximately 1.5 kilograms of cocaine base and 2 kilograms of cocaine were seized, and over \$411,000 in seized currency and five seized vehicles have been forfeited.

**New Haven Drug Task Force  
with special recognition of:**

**Sergeant Andrew Muro  
Special Agent Uri Shafir**

**New Haven Police Department  
Drug Enforcement Administration**

**United States v. Negus Thomas, et al.**

*Docket No. 3:02CR72(AWT)*

AUSA Mike J. Gustafson

AUSA Leonard C. Boyle

On May 16, 2001 Negus Thomas, Jerkeno Wallace, and other members of their drug crew were, as usual, openly selling crack cocaine on Edgewood Street in Hartford, a residential area, which has been blighted for years by drug dealing. Typically, purchasers - often from Hartford's suburbs - would drive down Edgewood Street and purchase crack from Thomas or one of his co-conspirators who maintained an open-air drug bazaar in the area of 81-83 Edgewood Street. On the afternoon of May 16th, Gil Torres, Josie Torres, and Lorenzo Martinez drove to Edgewood Street intending to commit a robbery. When they spotted Thomas in the area of 68 Edgewood Street, Josie Torres and Lorenzo Martinez jumped from the car, accosted Thomas at gunpoint and robbed him of approximately 5 grams of crack. The robbers then sped from the scene with Gil Torres behind the wheel of the getaway car. Unbeknownst to them, Thomas and Wallace pursued the robbers in Thomas' rental car.

A few minutes later - about 3 p.m. - Thomas and Wallace caught up with the robbers in the area of Farmington Avenue and Gillette Street where they opened fire with a high-powered handgun. Two bullets struck Gil Torres, causing his car to lurch forward and collide with an on-coming school bus. Thomas and Wallace fled the area before the police arrived. Gil Torres died several hours later at St. Francis Hospital from gunshot wounds.

Detective John Koch of the Hartford Police Department conducted the initial investigation and quickly developed information pointing to Thomas and Wallace as the killers. Because of the fear that the Thomas-Wallace crew engendered on Edgewood Street, however, Detective Koch lacked sufficient proof to charge them with the murder. The FBI's Hartford Violent Crime Task Force then joined the investigation. FBI Special Agent Robert Bornstein and Hartford Officers Robert Lawlor and Michael Edelwich devised a multi-faceted investigative plan, which targeted the Thomas/Wallace trafficking organization. Investigators suspected that several of the Edgewood Street co-conspirators had important evidence that could tie Thomas and Wallace to the Torres homicide and that, if faced with serious prison time for narcotics trafficking, would divulge that information in exchange for lesser sentences.

As a result of that investigation, in March 2002 Thomas, Wallace, and nine of their co-conspirators were indicted on federal charges for distribution of crack. Two of the co-conspirators entered cooperation agreements, and each provided important information regarding Thomas' and Wallace's participation in the May 2001 murder of Gil Torres. As a result, in July 2002, the grand jury returned a superseding indictment which charged Thomas and Wallace with the murder of Gil Torres.

All of the defendants except Thomas and Wallace pled guilty to the narcotics charges on which they were indicted and have been sentenced to prison. Following a two week trial in May 2003, both Thomas and Wallace were convicted of all pending charges, including narcotics trafficking, unlawful use of a firearm, and murder. Both have been sentenced to life in prison.

**Special Agent Robert E. Bornstein**  
**Detective John Koch**  
**Officer Robert Lawlor**  
**Officer Michael Edelwich**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Hartford Police Department**  
**Hartford Police Department**  
**Hartford Police Department**

**United States v. Kurt Claywell**

*Docket No. 3:03CR103(JCH)*

AUSA William J. Nardini

Kurt C. Claywell, the owner of a major electrical contracting firm in Simsbury, pleaded guilty to twenty-two counts of a thirty-one count indictment, involving a lengthy *Klein* tax conspiracy and mail fraud charges. The United States obtained guilty pleas from several cooperating defendants, including Roger Bennett (Claywell's CPA), James Dempsey (his bookkeeper), Pamela Hill (his office manager), and Sara Taylor (his administrative assistant).

As part of his tax conspiracy, Claywell admitted misconduct that included:

- giving falsified documents to the IRS during a 1998 employment tax audit;
- stashing over a million dollars in a sham pension plan in the name of Inter-Island Holding and Development Corporation, a shell company he had chartered in the Bahamas;
- using corporate funds to pay lavish personal expenses—including a speedboat, private school tuition, new appliances, and a birthday party for his wife—and then disguising them as business expenses for public works projects, such as the Stamford Courthouse, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, and the Hartford Public Library; and
- paying employees off the books, and failing to pay their employment taxes.

Claywell also mailed over \$150,000 in fraudulent invoices to the Traveler's Insurance Company, seeking reimbursement for fictitious nursing home care for his elderly father—who, in fact, was still living at home. As part of the plea agreement, Claywell has agreed to file amended personal and corporate tax returns for 1996 through 2000, and to pay full restitution. The Honorable Janet C. Hall will sentence Claywell in September 2004.

The success of this case was the fruit of many months of hard work by a number of federal law enforcement agents. Special Agent Anson Chiou of the U.S. Department of Labor uncovered the sham pension plan scheme, while following up on an earlier prosecution of Claywell for pension embezzlement. The other schemes were then uncovered in the wake of a series of search warrants on the premises of Claywell Electric, led by Special Agent Thomas Mulligan, who together with U.S. Postal Inspector Mark Borofsky and Special Agent Walter Grattan found and interviewed numerous witnesses, exhaustively documented the personal expenses paid out of Claywell Electric funds, and ultimately built a case yielding guilty pleas from all five defendants.

**Special Agent Thomas Mulligan  
Inspector Mark E. Borofsky  
Special Agent Anson Chiou  
Special Agent Walter W. Grattan, Jr.**

**Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation  
United States Postal Inspection Service  
United States Department of Labor - EBSA  
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States v. William Massie, Edmund Funaro, Jr. et al.**

*Docket No. 3:01CR17(CFD)*

AUSA Peter A. Clark  
AUSA Jonathan Biran

William Massie, M.D., Edmund Funaro, Jr., and six others were prosecuted in connection with Massie's illegal prescribing of controlled substances from his Dixwell Avenue office in New Haven between March 1998 and June 2000. Funaro, a registered pharmacist, and the owner of Visels Pharmacy on Dixwell Avenue in New Haven, was convicted by a jury of twenty-seven counts of illegally dispensing controlled substances. He is awaiting sentencing. Three other pharmacists – Konstantinos Melanidis, Frederick Santa, and John Wozniak – pleaded guilty to false statement charges in connection with their filling of Massie's prescriptions. The four pharmacists charged in the case were among a handful of pharmacists in the New Haven area who would fill Massie's prescriptions in any appreciable volume. Also convicted of drug charges in the case were Helen Umstead (Massie's office receptionist), William Calash (aka "the Greek"), and Paul Caponera. Calash and Caponera were "patients" of Massie who distributed a portion of the controlled substances they obtained by way of prescriptions written by Massie. Massie died of natural causes after being indicted but before the case went to trial.

During the three week trial of Funaro, the jury heard testimony from several of Massie's patients who filled prescriptions at Visels. Massie charged his patients \$50 in cash in exchange for writing prescriptions for Percocet, Vicodin, Xanax and other addictive drugs, often after conducting only a cursory or no physical examination. Massie did not permit his patients to make appointments to see him and would often leave his office early after he had seen the number of customers ("patients") he needed to earn the cash he required for that day. As a result of Massie's unpredictable hours, long lines would form outside his office on Dixwell Avenue as people competed to get in to see him and obtain prescriptions for their drugs of choice. As one witness put it at trial, Massie handed out prescriptions for Percocet, Vicodin and Xanax as if they were "Christmas turkeys." On occasion, Massie would meet patients at Sports Haven, a New Haven off-track betting parlor, and would provide them with prescriptions in exchange for cash. The jury also heard that Funaro frequently accepted cash from individuals on State assistance as payment for expensive controlled substances – in some instances just a few days after the same patients had used their State insurance cards to pay for prescriptions for the same drugs.

The agents listed below executed several search warrants, cultivated confidential informants who provided useful information, interviewed numerous witnesses, obtained and analyzed voluminous prescription records (approximately 15,000 prescriptions for controlled substances were written by Massie in a twenty-seven month period), entered those records into a database, and made several arrests. They also provided crucial support before and during trial,

ensuring that several uncooperative witnesses actually testified. Two of the agents testified at length at a suppression hearing and at Funaro's trial.

**Group Supervisor Leonard Levin**  
**Drug Control Agent Deborah Komoroski**

**(Ret)Sr. Drug Control Agent**  
**Herbert Strickland**  
**Special Agent John Paolino**

**Special Agent Judith A. Eide**  
**Special Agent Jonathan E. Holden**  
**Special Agent Kevin G. Rietema**  
**(Ret) Detective Charles Grady**

**Drug Enforcement Administration**  
**Department of Consumer Protection,**  
**Drug Control Division**  
**Department of Consumer Protection**  
**Drug Control Division**  
**Federal Drug Administration,**  
**Office of Criminal Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Hamden Police Department**

**United States v. Pamela Kaichen**

*Docket No. 3:03CR204(EBB)*

*Docket No. 3:03CR220(EBB)*

AUSA Stephen B. Reynolds  
AUSA Elliott Jacobson (SDNY)

This case involved a bank robbery spree by the defendant, Pamela Kaichen, a college educated former resident of exclusive Chappaqua, New York, who volunteered once a week at the Salvation Army site at Ground Zero in New York City following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Kaichen went on a two-day bank robbery spree across New York and Connecticut in May 2003, during which she robbed six banks in a misguided attempt to obtain money for the benefit of September 11 victims and charities. During the course of the robberies, Kaichen threatened to kill victim bank tellers and customers and wore, among other things, an ill-fitted cap, a yellow raincoat, and a blond wig, which earned her the tabloid nickname of the “blond bandit.”

Kaichen was identified in large part because a Danbury Police Officer issued her a ticket for failing to wear her seat belt on the morning of her second day of robberies. The officer later saw a bank surveillance photo on the television news that evening and recognized the “blond bandit” as the same person to whom he had issued the ticket earlier that day. Information obtained from the ticket ultimately led to Kaichen’s apprehension, her confession, and a series of searches which netted among other things, the clothes, the wig and a pillowcase that Kaichen used during the robberies; the Danbury traffic ticket that Kaichen received on the morning of the second day of the robberies; and virtually all of the stolen cash.

Kaichen waived indictment, agreed to the transfer of the New York case to Connecticut, and pleaded guilty to all six bank robberies. On February 2, 2004, Judge Ellen Bree Burns sentenced Kaichen to forty-eight months in prison, and ordered the money seized to be returned to the victim banks.

The case is noteworthy not only because of its facts, but also because it involved the cooperative and coordinated efforts of several law enforcement agencies in both New York and Connecticut, including agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Bridgeport, Connecticut and White Plains, New York; as well as members of the Yorktown, New York; Scarsdale, New York; Newtown, Connecticut; Danbury, Connecticut; and Brookfield, Connecticut Police Departments.

**Special Agent Lisa A. Skelly**  
**Special Agent Richard Clafin**  
**Officer Paul Carroccio**  
**Detective Dan Trompetta**  
**Detective Julio Lopez**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (Bridgeport)**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation (White Plains)**  
**Danbury Police Department**  
**Danbury Police Department**  
**Danbury Police Department**

**United States v. Gary Atnip and Mona Kim**  
*Docket No. 3:99CR235(EBB)*

AUSA Mark G. Califano  
AUSA Kari A. Dooley  
AUSA Jeffrey A. Meyer

This trial culminated the resolution of a superseding indictment of persons responsible for the massive fraud committed by Martin Frankel and his associates. Over the course of six months, the agents prepared a one and one-half month government case against Gary Atnip, the Chief Financial Officer of Martin Frankel’s insurance companies, and Mona Kim, Frankel’s office manager during his last days in Connecticut and his “right hand” while Frankel was in Europe fleeing from United States authorities. The agents below spent six months outlining the operation of the nine-year racketeering enterprise, culling and organizing documents and records from hundreds of boxes of evidence and tracking down and interviewing prospective government witnesses across the country and overseas for trial. In large part as a result of their preparation, Gary Atnip entered into a plea agreement in the eve of trial that guaranteed a sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

Over the course of a 3 week trial against Mona Kim, the case assembled by these agents and presented in Court conclusively proved that Kim played a key role in the operation of bogus entities Frankel used to acquire additional insurance companies and to avoid scrutiny by state regulators; Kim helped direct the laundering of more than \$16 million in stolen funds; and Kim obstructed justice by destroying documents, by helping Frankel flee the United States, and by testifying falsely in her own defense at trial. The prosecution these agents helped assemble and present was so strong that it took only three hours for the jury to convict Kim on all counts, including RICO, RICO conspiracy, money laundering, and wire fraud. Kim ultimately received a sentence of 80 months’ imprisonment and an order to pay more than \$50 million in restitution.

**Special Agent Jeffrey M. Banwell**  
**Special Agent Erin L. McNamara**  
**Special Agent Gary D. Schade**  
**Supervisory Special Agent Lawrence Marini**  
  
**(Ret) Special Agent Leanne Charette**  
  
**Special Agent Charles Cooney**  
  
**Revenue Agent Donald J. Crean**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Internal Revenue Service,**  
**Criminal Investigation**  
**Internal Revenue Service,**  
**Criminal Investigation**  
**Internal Revenue Service,**  
**Criminal Investigation**  
**Internal Revenue Service**

**United States v. Ralph F. Vitale and Peter J. Trantino**

*Docket No. 3:02CR262(RNC)*

**United States v. Charles J. Hoblin**

*Docket No. 3:01CR286(RNC)*

AUSA Calvin B. Kurimai

AUSA Lisa E. Perkins

Ralph F. Vitale, Charles J. Hoblin, an accountant, and Peter J. Trantino, a former Fleet Bank loan officer, schemed to defraud Fleet Bank of \$500,000 by fraudulently applying for five \$100,000 Fleet Easy Business Banking loans. The loan for each of five purported businesses, Air Technologies, Inc., Our Futures, Inc., Paper Technologies, Inc., Tripp Hauling and Carting, Inc. and 1<sup>ST</sup> CADA, Inc. was approved by Fleet based upon the information in the loan application, and upon a corporate income tax return and a personal income tax return for the purported corporate president. The information in each application concerning the assets of the corporation and of the purported president, however, was false, as were the income and expenses on each corporate tax return. These figures had been made up by Hoblin and Vitale. In addition, the name of one of Hoblin's clients was used as the president of each corporation without his knowledge. The client's signature on each application, which was witnessed by Trantino, was forged. The investigation was begun in April 1996, and was assigned to Special Agent Paul S. Panzarella in late 2000.

Charles J. Hoblin waived indictment and on December 13, 2001 pleaded guilty to one count of violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, Bank Fraud. An indictment charging Ralph F. Vitale and Peter J. Trantino with one count of bank fraud was returned on September 17, 2002. Trantino waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a superseding information charging five counts of bank fraud on July 24, 2003, and a superseding indictment charging Vitale with five counts of bank fraud was returned on July 24, 2003. The trial of Ralph F. Vitale began on April 29, 2004, and the jury returned verdicts of guilty on all counts on May 11, 2004. Hoblin and Trantino will be sentenced in July 2004, and Vitale's sentencing is scheduled for August 16, 2004. All face prison sentences and significant fines as well as orders of restitution. This complex financial case was ably and thoroughly investigated by Special Agent Panzarella. His assistance in preparation for, and during trial, was essential to the success realized in court.

**Special Agent Paul S. Panzarella**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States v. Tin Iv and Chan Champa**

*Docket No. 3:03CR153(RNC)*

**United States v. Sourasay Sikhounmeuang and Christina Dixon**

*Docket No. 3:03CR249(RNC)*

AUSA Jonathan Biran

Tin Iv, Chan Champa, Sourasay Sikhounmeuang, and Christina Dixon were prosecuted in connection with a marriage fraud ring led by Iv. Between March 2001 and March 2003, Iv facilitated approximately 70 fraudulent marriages between U.S. citizens and Cambodian nationals. These fraudulent marriages were undertaken in order to permit the Cambodian nationals to obtain visas to enter and live in the United States as the purported spouses of U.S. citizens. The fraudulent marriages took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Iv was the leader of the scheme; Champa, Sikhounmeuang, and Dixon worked as recruiters for Iv's operation.

Iv usually promised to pay \$7,000 to each U.S. citizen who agreed to enter into a fraudulent marriage with a total stranger in Cambodia. Iv would pay the first \$3,000 of the \$7,000 amount to the U.S. citizen when he or she was in Cambodia to take part in the fraudulent marriage. The remaining \$4,000 was to be paid to the U.S. citizen after his or her purported spouse obtained a visa to enter and live in the United States and/or actually arrived in the United States. Iv paid for the airplane tickets used by the U.S. citizens to travel to Cambodia, as well as hotel rooms and meals for the U.S. citizens while they were in Cambodia. At Iv's instruction, the U.S. citizens went to the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh and filled out an "Affidavit of Eligibility to Marry" form. Iv and his accomplices told the U.S. citizens that, if any U.S. Embassy official asked, they should lie about how long they had known their purported spouses and how they had met. Iv told the U.S. citizens that they would not be required to live with their purported spouses once the spouses arrived in the United States, and that they would be able to obtain divorces from their spouses two years after the Cambodians arrived in the United States. Iv obtained funds from the families of the purported spouses to pay the U.S. citizens for their part in the scheme, as well as to pay Iv for his services and to reimburse Iv for his expenses. In several instances, the families of Cambodian nationals provided Iv with at least \$25,000 in order to arrange a fraudulent marriage between a Cambodian national and a U.S. citizen. Iv paid Champa, Sikhounmeuang, and Dixon up to \$1,500 for each U.S. citizen they recruited to participate in the scheme.

Iv and Champa, both of whom live in California, pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the United States. Iv also pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting marriage fraud. Sikhounmeuang and Dixon, both of whom are Connecticut residents, pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit marriage fraud. Sikhounmeuang also pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting marriage fraud. All four defendants are awaiting sentencing.

The agents listed below executed several search warrants, including two warrants in California, cultivated confidential informants who provided useful information, interviewed numerous witnesses, including witnesses located in Connecticut, California, and Pennsylvania, and made several arrests. Some of the evidence obtained by the agents was particularly

enlightening, including a photograph of one of the U.S. citizens in her hotel room in Cambodia after having received the first \$3,000 of her \$7,000 payment for marrying a Cambodian. In the photograph, the young American woman is smiling as she lies on the bed, covered in the \$20 bills she had just received from Iv. Happily, the trips to Cambodia were not without their culturally informative moments for the U.S. citizens. The agents discovered proof of this when they obtained photographs of Iv, Sikhounmeuang, Dixon and several of the U.S. citizens who participated in the scheme, as they rode elephants together in northern Cambodia.

**Special Agent Douglas Baldwin**

**Special Agent R. Mark Earl**

**Special Agent Cory Dunphy**

**United States Department of State,  
Diplomatic Security Service**

**United States Department of State,  
Diplomatic Security Service**

**United States Department of State,  
Diplomatic Security Service**

**United States v. Deb Kerpen, et al.**

*Docket No. 3:02CR230(SRU)*

AUSA John A. Marrella  
AUSA David X. Sullivan

In the summer of 1999, the Fairfield Police Department opened an investigation of Deb's Escorts, a large-scale outcall prostitution business based in East Haven, Connecticut, which was owned and operated by East Haven resident Deb Kerpen. The investigation arose when one of the escorts employed by Deb's Escorts stole a credit card from a Fairfield resident following a sexual encounter in that town. Through extensive physical surveillance, interviews of customers and employees, and evidence obtained by cooperating witnesses, Fairfield Police detectives developed probable cause to obtain search warrants for Kerpen's residence as well as Deb's Escorts' principal office in East Haven. The evidence obtained from these warrants, which were executed in June of 2000, revealed a significant criminal enterprise with annual gross receipts of approximately \$1.5 million. For those customers who chose to pay by credit card, Deb's Escorts personnel would transmit the credit card charges to an out-of-state processing facility by means of the interstate telephone system, thereby providing the basis for federal jurisdiction. Kerpen also received cash and credit card receipts from escorts by means of Express Mail. Evidence obtained in the investigation revealed that Kerpen's prostitution enterprise operated from 1994 through 2002. During this period of time she employed over 100 women as prostitutes, as well as other women who served as support personnel to handle bookkeeping and financial transactions. Kerpen was assisted by Shannon Ferraiuolo and Amy Gagliardi, both of whom were employed as office managers.

Following the search warrants, federal investigators from the Postal Inspection Service and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation undertook a detailed financial examination of Debs' Escorts' books and records and concluded that Kerpen also used the company to launder its ill-gotten gains. Kerpen then used the proceeds of her business to purchase real estate and personal property, which included boats, trucks, horses, and farm equipment. In May of 2001, federal agents and Fairfield police detectives executed seizure warrants against numerous assets held by Kerpen in Connecticut and Kentucky, including bank accounts, the total value of which exceeded \$750,000.

In August of 2002, Kerpen and Ferraiuolo were charged in a 45-count Indictment with multiple counts of using the United States Mail and interstate facilities in aid of a prostitution enterprise and conspiring to do so, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1952 and 371. In addition, the Indictment charged Kerpen with twenty-four counts of money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956. The indictment also included an asset forfeiture count. In October of 2002, Gagliardi, who had been cooperating with the investigation, pleaded guilty to an information charging her with conspiracy to violate Section 1952. Ferraiuolo pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge in June of 2003 and also agreed to cooperate against Kerpen. In February of 2004, Deb Kerpen pleaded guilty to conspiracy and money laundering charges. As part of her plea agreement, Kerpen agreed to forfeit her interest in the various assets that had been seized

pursuant to civil and criminal forfeiture statutes. Kerpen, Ferraiuolo, and Gagliardi are all scheduled to be sentenced in June of 2004.

**Special Agent Douglas K. Werth**

**Lieutenant Gary M. MacNamara**

**Detective Peter S. Bravo**

**Inspector Bernard P. Feeney, Jr.**

**Internal Revenue Service,**

**Criminal Investigation**

**Fairfield Police Department**

**Fairfield Police Department**

**United States Postal Inspection Service**

**United States v. Wayne Sinclair**

*Docket No. 3:02CR308(JCH)*

AUSA Stephen B. Reynolds

This case involved the illegal re-entry of the defendant, Wayne Sinclair, who had been previously deported to Jamaica from the United States in 1997, after serving an eight year sentence on felony convictions for cocaine distribution imposed by Judge Dorsey.

On October 29, 2002, a federal grand jury sitting in Hartford returned a one count indictment charging the defendant with illegal re-entry, after Sinclair was found back in the United States when he appeared in Hartford Superior Court on charges stemming from a domestic dispute. When the Superior Court Judge advised Sinclair that an INS detainer had been lodged against him, Sinclair attempted to flee the courthouse, but was physically restrained and taken into custody by State of Connecticut Judicial Marshals.

Although reportedly few illegal re-entry cases actually proceed to trial, the defendant claimed that he had never been deported; had been in the country all along; and that he was not the individual that INS agents had taken photographs of, and from whom they had obtained fingerprints, immediately before personally escorting him onto a plane bound for Jamaica in 1997. The case went to trial before Judge Hall in April 2003.

Case agent Michael S. Loser and his colleagues at the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement went above and beyond to prepare and present the case for trial, including the extraordinary efforts of Chief Deportation Officer James Brown, who personally traveled to Jamaica shortly before the trial and not only secured a certification of foreign business records but also obtained a copy of what turned out to be a critical piece of evidence – a logbook from Jamaica with an entry confirming that Sinclair had arrived as scheduled in Jamaica aboard his deportation flight in December 1997.

On April 2, 2003, a federal jury quickly convicted Sinclair, who is now serving ninety-two months in prison, after which, he will once again be deported.

**Special Agent Michael S. Loser**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security,  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement**

**Special Agent Stephen J. Back**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security,  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement**

**James E. Brown, Supervisory Immigration  
Enforcement Agent**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security,  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement**

**David Ostrobinski, Immigration  
Enforcement Agent**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security,  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement**

## **OPERATION TAKE IT BACK**

**United States v. Leonard Jones, Luke Jones, Lonnie Jones, et. als.**

*Docket No. 3:99CR264(AHN)*

AUSA Alex V. Hernandez  
AUSA Alina P. Marquez-Reynolds  
AUSA James J. Finnerty

“Operation Take it Back” was initiated by the DEA and FBI as a joint investigation with the Bridgeport Police Department in early 1999. This investigation centered on the narcotics trafficking and violence of a group which operated primarily within the Middle Court area of the P.T. Barnum Housing Project on the West Side of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Known variously as the “Middle Court Crew,” the “Batman Crew” and “Q&A,” the organization employed conspicuous and outrageous acts of violence, including intimidation, assaults, shootings and murder to establish, enhance, and promote their multimillion dollar heroin and crack cocaine enterprise.

The case agents and officers initiated an extensive historical, grand jury investigation of the organization which included the interviews and re-interviews of arrested and imprisoned members of the organization, the corroboration of information provided by them through the review of hundreds of Bridgeport Police surveillance, arrest and seizure reports. The targets of the investigation were videotaped from abandoned apartments within the housing project and Bridgeport Police Officers were instructed to approach arrested, low-level dealers for cooperation after their arrests.

In addition to traditional and dogged police work, the investigation profited from fortuitous arrests and seizures. For example, the New York Police Department’s HIDTA Task Force was investigating a mid-level Dominican heroin importer in 1998 when they caught career felony narcotics offender Kenneth Richardson, a lieutenant in the Middle Crew, leaving the target’s apartment carrying over 400 grams of heroin. A few weeks later, the Dominican drug importer was arrested by the HIDTA Task Force in a room full of heroin. He agreed to cooperate which cooperation ultimately resulted in the arrest of Aaron Harris and Lonnie T. Jones, two leaders of the organization, and the seizure of over \$45,000 in cash as they were about to purchase a kilogram of heroin. The DEA in Bridgeport was alerted of the arrests and the New York State charges were later dismissed as a rouse in favor of the DEA and FBI’s ongoing investigation.

In November of 1999, Middle Court Crew leaders Luke Jones and Lonnie Jones and gang member Lance Jones were arrested by the Bridgeport Police Department after a car stop and search revealed that they were all wearing body armor and armed with loaded, semi-automatic handguns with extended and extra ammunition clips. A few days later, a federal complaint charging the three with firearms violations resulted in the arrest of Lonnie Jones who was detained and held without bond for the duration of the prosecution. Luke Jones and Lance Jones

were later arrested by members of the United States Marshals Service after inter-state manhunts which employed roving electronic surveillance of portable cellular telephone tracking devices.

The investigation continued and in February of 2000, fourteen members of the organization were named in a superseding indictment charging them with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine. In September of 2000, career felony offender Lance Jones was convicted after trial and later sentenced to 293 months imprisonment for the charge of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. In November of 2000, a jury trial resulted in the conviction of Middle Court Crew leader Aaron Harris, and drug lieutenants John Foster, Rasheen Lewis, and Kenneth Richardson were convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of fifty grams or more of cocaine base, five kilograms or more of cocaine, and 1,000 grams or more of heroin. Harris, who had no prior criminal record, and Richardson were later sentenced to lifetime imprisonment, while Lewis and Foster received sentences of twenty-five and twenty-seven years imprisonment respectively. During the November 2000 trial, a federal grand jury returned another superseding indictment charging Harris and eleven others with Racketeering, Racketeering Conspiracy and multiple counts of drug trafficking.

In July of 2001, Middle Court Crew leader Lonnie Jones, who had no prior criminal record, was convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin, cocaine and cocaine base and later sentenced to lifetime imprisonment.

An investigation into the gang's violence continued and resulted in yet another superseding indictment charging eleven defendants with: four VICAR Murders; multiple narcotics trafficking conspiracies; Racketeering; Racketeering Conspiracy; four Conspiracies to Commit VICAR Murder, and related firearms offenses.

In April of 2003, gang leaders and organizers Leonard T. Jones, Lyle T. Jones, Jr., and gang lieutenant Willie Nunley, along with gang members Leslie Morris and Lance Jones, were convicted of Racketeering and RICO Conspiracy. In addition, Morris and Nunley were convicted of VICAR Murder and Conspiracy to Commit Murder. Lance Jones received additional, consecutive sentences of twenty years and ten years for a total effective sentence of 54 years imprisonment. Each of the other four defendants was sentenced to multiple lifetime terms of imprisonment.

The trial of gang leader and organizer Luke T. Jones was severed from the trial of his co-defendants when he became the first defendant in the State of Connecticut to face the death penalty in federal court. In October of 2004, a jury convicted him of Racketeering, RICO Conspiracy, two counts of Conspiracy to Commit VICAR Murder, two counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin, cocaine, and cocaine base, and VICAR Murder. The trial judge later entered a judgment of acquittal on a VICAR Murder conviction finding that the murder was not sufficiently linked to the racketeering enterprise and thereby rendering the defendant ineligible for the death penalty. Luke Jones later received four lifetime and two ten year terms of imprisonment.

This lengthy investigation and the ensuing prosecutions were particularly difficult because the witnesses and their families were known to the defendants and their criminal associates. The Connecticut Department of Corrections was instrumental in delivering imprisoned witnesses for interview, trial testimony, and in securing the witnesses's security. Victim witness coordinators from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI provided assistance, assurance, and compassion to the victims and witnesses of violent crimes and their family members. The defendants' friends and family regularly appeared in court in large numbers staring down witnesses and hurling invective at the prosecutors and case agents. One family member was taken into custody, charged and convicted of contempt of court as a result of a tumultuous outburst during a court proceeding. State and local law enforcement authorities all credit this investigation and prosecution as a significant factor in the dramatic reduction in murder and other violent crime and narcotics trafficking in the City of Bridgeport.

**Special Agent Milton Tyrrell**  
**Special Agent James M. Lawton**  
**Special Agent Bradley F. Ware**  
**Detective Sanford Dowling**  
**Detective Richard Donaldson**  
**Detective Thomas Grimes**  
**(Retired) Captain Ray Elterich**  
**Deputy U.S. Marshal James Masterson**  
**Deputy U.S. Marshal Anthony Iaquinto**  
**Federal Victim Advocate Marybeth Miklos**

**Drug Enforcement Administration**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**Bridgeport Police Department**  
**Bridgeport Police Department**  
**New York City Police Department**  
**Connecticut Dept. of Corrections**  
**U.S. Marshals Service**  
**U.S. Marshals Service**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

## **PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS - BRIDGEPORT**

**United States v. William Torrales**

*Docket No. 3:03CR298(CFD)*

**United States v. Darrell Tucker**

*Docket No. 3:03CR133(CFD)*

**United States v. Matthew Johnson**

*Docket No. 3:03CR121(JBA)*

**United States v. Manuel Rosado**

*Docket No. 3:03CR143(JBA)*

**United States v. Miguel Roman**

*Docket No. 3:03CR252(PCD)*

**United States v. Johnny Haygood**

*Docket No. 3:04CR59(JCH)*

**United States v. Kyle Glenn**

*Docket No. 3:04CR007(JCH)*

**United States v. Jayvell Washington**

*Docket No. 3:04CR124(JCH)*

**United States v. Ronald Miley**

*Docket No. 3:03CR14(SRU)*

AUSA Robert M. Spector

Last year, the Project Safe Neighborhoods task force in Bridgeport stepped up their performance to a new level, improving the efficiency of their handling of reactive cases and shifting their focus to proactive investigations. On the reactive side, the four member task force (Detectives Dwayne McBride, Santiago Llanos and Sanford Dowling, and Special Agent James Sullivan) responded to every gun arrest in the City of Bridgeport, regardless of the time of day or night, and had excellent success in taking oral and written confessions from gun suspects. On occasion, these agents and officers had to respond to motions to suppress in any number of federal prosecutions and, without fail, achieved success due, in no small part, to their collective ability to testify in court and withstand vigorous cross examination. Juries were selected in three different Bridgeport gun cases last year, all of which pleaded out on the eve of trial. Each case required intense trial preparation which required the agents, often working as a team, to scramble in response to last minute requests for the service of subpoenas, the conducting of interviews, and the gathering of evidence and reports. The investigative team routinely spent weeks

preparing for grand jury in “simple” gun cases, subpoenaing large numbers of witnesses both to lock in defenses and to attempt to corroborate key police officer testimony. Most importantly, the task force expanded its focus to include proactive investigations of gun dealing and gun-related violence. In some instances, they targeted the highest ranking members of warring factions of individuals in an effort to quell the violence by removing those individuals from the equation. In other instances, they used confidential informants to purchase guns from suspected illegal gun dealers, audio taping the transactions. Far more significant than the cases listed above are the numerous cases that resolved in state court to significant state dispositions. It has become the rare exception in Bridgeport for a defendant to refuse a state plea offer (which is calculated using his federal exposure) and risk prosecution in federal court. This phenomenon is due in large part to the quality of the investigative team and their ability to improve on the reactive cases by getting statements from defendants and build strong proactive cases using various investigative techniques, including audio recordings of confidential informant gun purchases. A testament to their success is the pronounced reduction in shootings and reports of shots fired in Bridgeport in 2003 – indeed, Bridgeport was recently recognized as the east coast city with one of the largest decreases in violent crime.

**Special Agent James Sullivan**

**Special Agent Kimberly McGrain**

**Detective Dwayne McBride**

**Detective Santiago Llanos**

**Detective Sanford Dowling**

**Captain Lynn Kerwin**

**Lieutenant James Viadero**

**Assistant State’s Attorney Craig Nowak**

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms  
and Explosives**

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms  
and Explosives**

**Bridgeport Police Department**

**Bridgeport State’s Attorney’s Office**

## **PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS - HARTFORD**

AUSA Thomas V. Dailey  
AUSA Brian P. Leaming

Hartford continues the highly effective partnership between the United States Attorney's Offices, the Chief State's Attorney's Office, the Hartford State's Attorney's Offices, Hartford Police Department and other federal and state law enforcement agencies to aggressively pursue and prosecute gun crime and to target the worst offenders thus removing them from the streets of Hartford.

In 2003, among other Hartford federal prosecutions, five defendants were sentenced as Armed Career Criminals and received sentences of fifteen years or more. The State prosecuted many more gun cases where sentences have been significantly increased over prior dispositions.

Lieutenant Malik Merritt, as commander of the North Community Response Division, has directed that policing and has been actively involved in prosecution strategy. However, as importantly, or perhaps more so, he has been influential in Project Safe Neighborhoods community outreach efforts. Those efforts include addressing hundreds of parolees and probationers on a monthly basis at the Salvation Army in Hartford, along with the United States Attorney's Office, Chief State's Attorney's Office, and several social service organizations. He passionately warns attendees of the severe consequences of gun possession and continued criminal activity, and encourages them to use all available services to turn their lives around. He recently prepared a PowerPoint presentation to supplement his talk, which has been enthusiastically received. Without question, Lt. Merritt has had an impact on and affected many who have heard him speak, and greatly improved the safety of the Hartford community. His efforts, as well as those of the entire PSN Team, have contributed significantly to the recent reduction in gun violence in Hartford.

**Lieutenant Malik Merritt**

**Hartford Police Department**

## **PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS - WATERBURY**

AUSA James I. Glasser

In August of 2003, the United States Attorney invited law enforcement officials in Waterbury to participate in Project Safe Neighborhoods. The Waterbury States Attorney's Office accepted the invitation and assigned Assistant States Attorney Patrick Griffin to the project. Griffin, a career prosecutor, accepted the assignment and has been a force to be reckoned with ever since.

Griffin, after accepting the assignment, met with the Chief of Police, explained the project and exacted a commitment of support from the police department. Griffin succeeded in convincing the Chief to assign motivated detectives to the effort. Thereafter, Griffin had similar meetings with his local probation office, his local parole office, and the State Department of Corrections. Each assigned outstanding personnel to the project. Next, personnel were assigned to Waterbury from BATF and the U.S. Attorney's Office and within a matter of two weeks the Waterbury PSN effort was off the ground and operating.

Assistant State's Attorney Griffin developed a "gun protocol" for the police department which the Chief in turn implemented. The protocol requires that when a gun is recovered, a Waterbury PSN task force detective and the forensics unit must be notified and dispatched to the scene. Assuming it is safe to do so, the firearm is not moved; it is photographed in place. Every gun recovered in Waterbury is now finger printed, ballistics testing is performed and the operability of the firearm is determined. Every individual arrested for drug or gun crimes is subject to post-arrest, post Miranda rights questioning. This effort has resulted in numerous inculpatory statements that have made good cases even better.

Griffin single handedly implemented "Offender Meetings" in Waterbury. Through his contacts in parole and probation, attendance at Offender Meetings was made mandatory. As a consequence, approximately 50 of the most violent convicted felons attend these meetings each month. The task force explains the team approach to gun crime, discusses recent cases that have gone through the state and federal system, and attempts to persuade attendees to think twice before possessing a firearm. It is at these meetings that the credibility of the Project Safe Neighborhoods project in Waterbury is both most apparent and important. Armed with story after story of long federal and state sentences for simple gun possession, members of the task force are able to speak with candor about the true consequences of gun crime in Waterbury. The second half of these meetings involve local community resources to discuss the programs available to the attendees. These programs include substance and alcohol abuse counseling, anger management programs, and career training and job readiness skills.

In addition to the prosecutorial and investigative efforts, once a month Assistant State's Attorney Griffin provides in-service training to law enforcement. He has been able to effectively incorporate Project Safe Neighborhoods into this regional re-certification training.

Between August 2003 and May 2004, Assistant State's Attorney Griffin has disposed of forty-two firearms cases. Out of the forty-two cases, twenty-four cases were for the criminal possession of a firearm by a felon, ten were for carrying a pistol without a permit, four were weapons in motor vehicle cases, and three cases were for carrying a dangerous weapon. To put these numbers into perspective, Assistant State's Attorney Griffin had not previously prosecuted forty-two firearms cases in his entire nine years with the State's Attorney's office. The disposition of this number of cases in nine months with an average state sentence of fifty months is unprecedented. What is even more impressive is Assistant State's Attorney Griffin's ability to leverage the threat of federal prosecution to compress the time to disposition in the processing of state cases. Since January 2004, Assistant State's Attorney Griffin has had multiple defendants plead guilty to lengthy prison terms in less than thirty days from the date of arrest. This time to disposition is virtually unprecedented in the State system.

In sum, in nine months, Assistant State's Attorney Griffin has embraced the PSN program, formed meaningful partnerships, conducted considerable outreach, and implemented an outstanding PSN program. This award is submitted in recognition of the successes that can be achieved by just one person committed to an effective law enforcement program.

**Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Griffin**

**Waterbury State's Attorney's  
Office**

## **PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS – NEW HAVEN**

AUSA John A. Marrella

In New Haven, the United States Attorney's Office continues to enjoy the cooperation of several key law enforcement partners in fulfilling the goals of Project Safe Neighborhoods. The State's Attorney's Office for the Judicial District of New Haven prosecutes a large number of firearms cases and works closely with the United States Attorney's Office in identifying cases that are appropriate for federal prosecution. The New Haven Police Department's Firearms Unit has been very aggressive and effective in investigating firearms offenses for cases prosecuted in both federal and state court. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has provided critical support to the New Haven Police Department and to both federal and state prosecutors. The ATF has also provided valuable training for local police departments in the area of firearms investigations. The Board of Parole and the Office of Adult Probation have worked closely with police and prosecutors and have used their supervisory authority to help deter offenders from returning to a life of crime. These two agencies have helped to organize monthly offender meetings in New Haven, at which groups of recently-released felons are advised of the severe criminal penalties associated with gun crimes, as well as the opportunities available to them if they choose instead to give up their criminal behavior and the destructive lifestyle that attends such behavior.

Collectively, these law enforcement partners have helped to further reduce violent crime in New Haven by identifying and prosecuting the worst offenders and by offering a powerful deterrent to many others.

**Detective Peter Carusone**  
**Probation Officer Lisa D'Amato**  
**Assistant State's Attorney John P. Doyle, Jr.**  
**Supervisory Parole Officer, Elaine Pacheco**  
**Special Agent Dennis C. Turman**

**New Haven Police Department**  
**Office of Adult Probation**  
**New Haven State's Attorney's Office**  
**Connecticut Board of Parole**  
**Resident Agent-in-Charge, Bureau of**  
**Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms**  
**and Explosives**

## **PROJECT SENTRY COMMUNITY AWARD**

AUSA Keith A. King

The United States Attorney's Office recognizes Pedro Delgado, Trevor Foster and Kenneth R. Jackson for their committed efforts to reduce juvenile violence through the Project Sentry initiative in New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport.

Unfortunately, far too many drug offenses and crimes of violence are committed by individuals under age 21. In 2001, the Department of Justice launched a new initiative called Project Safe Neighborhoods ("PSN"). Messrs. Delgado, Foster and Jackson have helped in the creation of a program to stem juvenile violence that has been nationally recognized. A major component of this program involves frequent interactive presentations to youth by federal and state prosecutors and by ex-offenders who can speak from the heart and from first hand experience about the consequences of criminal behavior. These men have made presentations to approximately 13,000 students throughout the State with their message of alternatives to drugs and violence. Their commitment and passion for helping young people avoid the mistakes they made is evident, palpable and extremely well-received by the young people they address. During 2003 these men presented the Project Sentry message to the entire sixth grade population of the New Haven and Bridgeport public school systems, as well as many of the schools in Hartford and New Britain, and at talent shows, basketball tournaments and other community events.

For their extraordinary efforts to persuade young people to avoid criminal conduct, we recognize Messrs. Delgado, Foster and Jackson.

**Pedro Delgado, New Haven**  
**Trevor Foster, Hartford**  
**Kenneth Jackson, Bridgeport**

## **2004 VICTIM ASSISTANCE AWARD**

Linda A. Corrado, Victim Witness Coordinator

The Victim Assistance Award recognizes the outstanding efforts of a law enforcement officer who has ensured that federal crime victims are assisted at critical junctures of the criminal justice process. In recognition of his work with the victims in: United States v. Saul Dos Reis; United States v. Carlos Estanqueiro; and United States v. Devon Harris, et als, we are pleased to present Special Agent Don Kleber with our second annual Victim Assistance Award.

The prosecution in the Dos Reis case involved tragic circumstances where a thirteen year old girl engaged in internet chats of a sexual nature with Saul Dos Reis. Those chats ultimately led to an in-person liaison and to actual sexual encounters. During the second such encounter, in May of 2003, Dos Reis killed the child victim. Dos Reis was prosecuted both by federal and state authorities. Agent Kleber not only worked diligently to build the case against Dos Reis, but also worked closely with the family of the deceased and showed great sensitivity throughout the investigation and prosecution of this matter. Dos Reis was sentenced in both the state system and the federal system, and received a total effective prison sentence of forty years.

Relatedly, Carlos Estanqueiro pleaded guilty in December of 2003 to the use of the internet for purposes of enticing a minor to have sexual relations. The same minor that was the victim of Dos Reis was the victim in this investigation and prosecution. Estanqueiro was sentenced to forty-six months' imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. He will be deported upon his release from prison. This prosecution similarly required a deft touch by Special Agent Kleber inasmuch as this defendant's victim was ultimately killed by Dos Reis and the conduct involved was both salacious and scandalous.

Finally, Special Agent Kleber was involved in the investigation and prosecution of Renaldo Rose and his confederates who were responsible for an armed robbery of a UPS delivery truck immediately before the Christmas holiday as a test of the mettle of confederates who were ultimately involved in the kidnaping of multi-millionaire financier Edward Lampert. Once again, Special Agent Kleber did an outstanding job in handling the many delicate victim-witness issues involved in this prosecution.

**Special Agent Donald R. Kleber**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

## **JAMES “J.R.” RICHARDSON LEBLANC**

It was not long after joining the United States Probation Office that J.R. LeBlanc established himself as not only extremely capable at his job, but also as a leader among his colleagues both within and outside the Probation Office. He became both friend and colleague to the federal law enforcement community -- admired by everyone with whom he interacted. J.R. was similarly admired by the Judges of the District Court, Assistant United States Attorneys, Special Agents, fellow Probation Officers, defense counsel and even the defendants that he supervised or for whom he wrote pre-sentence reports and sentence recommendations.

But J.R.’s success was merely the by-product of who he was. Above all else, J.R. was committed to doing the right thing, doing justice, which is the calling we all share, and one at which he excelled. He treated every person with respect, compassion and dignity. He was tenacious, at times unyielding. But in his most tenacious moments, he was never unreasonable. Indeed, there was reason (and usually a good dose of equity) to everything J.R. did. It was all of these qualities that led J.R. to be among the most respected and admired in his field. No matter your differences, you had to like and respect J.R.

He became not only an excellent Probation Officer, but an ambassador for his Office. As the liaison between the United State’s Attorney’s Office and the Probation Office, he facilitated lines of communication, bridged gaps created by conflicting roles and policies, and otherwise kept the peace in what is sometimes a difficult relationship between the two agencies.

There is little that can be said to describe the collective sorrow and loss that everyone at the United State’s Attorney’s Office and throughout the law enforcement community felt in November 2003 when we learned that J.R. had died suddenly during the night. He was only 40 years old and he had much left to do. He is honored here today for the tremendous contribution he made in the years he was with us. His public service to both the law enforcement community, as well as the offenders he sought to help, are immeasurable and our loss at his passing is incalculable. Hopefully, his life will serve as an example of just how much one person can accomplish when fueled by selfless dedication.

J.R. cannot be completely summed up without reference to his family. His wife, Lisa, and his three children, Brett, Bianca and Julia were, in a word, J.R.’s world. When J.R. spoke of his family, his chest swelled with love and pride. His devotion was worn on his sleeve for the world to see, and we did. This award is presented at least in part with the sincere hope that J.R.’s example, honored here, will serve as a continuing guide to his children as they grow up, and as a reminder that their dad was a truly a remarkable person.