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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LONG BEACH RESIDENT INDICTED FOR  
PERJURY AND MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS**

***Alleged expert was retained to help defend several child exploitation prosecutions***

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a grand jury in Fresno returned an 11-count indictment against JAMES EARL EDMISTON, 36, of Long Beach, California. The indictment charges him with three counts of perjury and eight counts of making false statements.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by the Fresno Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

According to court documents filed in the case, EDMISTON was retained by two Fresno criminal defense attorneys to provide computer forensic analysis in several child exploitation prosecutions. As part of his work on these cases, EDMISTON prepared and executed several declarations under penalty of perjury between April 3, 2006 and July 19, 2006. In the declarations he claimed that he had been a computer consultant for 12 years, that he had a master's degree in computer engineering, and that he was qualified as an expert witness in computers and their online usage by numerous state and federal courts throughout California. An investigation revealed the EDMISTON did not, in fact, have degrees from the California Institute of Technology, the University of California at Los Angeles, or the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, as he claimed. The indictment alleges that EDMISTON also concealed his prior criminal record that includes a prison term he served in the mid-1990s as a result of forgery convictions in the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David L. Gappa and Sheila K. Oberto, who are prosecuting the case, the maximum penalty for each count in the indictment include a prison term of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, a three-year term of supervised release, and a mandatory penalty assessment of \$100. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed in the discretion of the court.

EDMISTON has been ordered detained as a flight risk and has been in custody since his arrest on September 21, 2006. He will be arraigned on the indictment on October 6, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. before Magistrate Judge Dennis L. Beck.

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