



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, April 27, 2009
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Docket #: 1:07-cr-0221-OWW

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LAST DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN BRIBERY AND KICKBACK SCHEME

Government Contracts Representative Sought Bribes from Two Construction Contractors

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown and United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Special Agent-in-Charge Douglas J. Carver announced today that United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger sentenced RODOLFO PAGESANJAN, 65, of Hanford, Calif., to one year in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release, and a \$10,000 fine for a bribery and kickback scheme involving renovations at the Veteran's Administration's Medical Center ("VAMC") in Fresno. Judge Wanger today also sentenced MASOUD MIRHADI, 67, of Clovis, CA to three years of supervised probation and a \$2,500 fine, in the same scheme, for unlawfully supplementing the salary of a government employee.

This case is the product of an investigation by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General.

Stated Acting United States Attorney Brown, "At a time when our economic situation requires fiscal austerity as one of the marks of responsible government, our office will continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute abuses such as those uncovered in this case."

Special Agent-in-Charge Carver stated, "The corrupt activities uncovered during this investigation served to divert precious financial resources from the VA's critical mission into the pockets of an unscrupulous government employee and two contractors. The VA is committed to aggressively ferreting out this type of corruption and holding those responsible accountable for their actions."

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Carolyn Delaney and Marlon Cobar, who prosecuted the case, between October 8, 2000 and December 16, 2005, PAGESANJAN was employed by the Fresno Veterans Affairs Medical Center as an engineering technician. Part of his job was to act as a Contracting Officer Technical Representative for construction projects. MIRHADI was the owner and president of Construction Design Unlimited, Inc. (CDU), which he operated from his home in Clovis, Calif. A third defendant, TRENT MILLER, 41, of Fresno, was the owner of United Air Technologies, Inc. (UAT), a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) company located in Fresno, California.

On September 19, 2001 and September 5, 2002, CDU won two competitively bid contracts on a construction project to remodel parts of the Fresno Veterans Affairs Medical Center. UAT was the HVAC subcontractor to CDU on this project. CDU delivered the contracted construction projects. However, during both of the contracts, PAGESANJAN solicited bribes from MIRHADI and MILLER, totaling at least \$5,000, which he obtained from them by

agreeing to sign-off on inflated contract change orders. PAGESANJAN admitted that he “acted corruptly, with the intent of being influenced in the performance of his official acts of signing-off on the work performed.” All three defendants pleaded guilty in January 2009.

On April 6, 2009, Judge Wanger sentenced MILLER, to five years of supervised probation and a \$2,000 fine/or 250 hours of community service for his conviction of unlawfully supplementing the salary of a government employee.

In sentencing the defendants, Judge Wanger noted the serious nature of the charges, but took into consideration MIRHADI’s and MILLERS’ full cooperation with the government from the time federal law enforcement uncovered the bribery and kickback scheme.

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