



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa                      Orlando  
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**DEFENDANT IN INTERNATIONAL  
INVESTMENT FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING SCHEME  
EXTRADITED FROM SPAIN**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announced the initial appearance in federal court of Richard Sinclair Pope (age 53) a citizen of the United Kingdom who had been residing in Spain. In March 2009, Pope was charged by Indictment, along with six other defendants, for conspiring to commit mail fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and money laundering, as well as substantive counts of illegal monetary transactions, mail fraud and wire fraud. Last fall, Pope was apprehended in Spain. Pursuant to official government request, Pope was extradited to the United States. Pope made his initial appearance in federal court in Tampa this afternoon.

According to the Indictment, from at least as early as July 2004 through at least March 13, 2008, Pope and others engaged in a fraud scheme, in which they (1) hijacked the identities of dormant, publicly-traded companies; (2) caused the sale of virtually worthless shares of stock in the hijacked companies to victim-investors, primarily in the United Kingdom, using boiler room telemarketers, mostly in Spain, who employed high pressure and misleading sales techniques; (3) caused victim-investors to wire their investment funds to bank accounts in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere; and (4)

used the victim-investors' funds to perpetuate the scheme and for their own personal enrichment. Pope faces the following in penalties:

Count One – conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud – 20 years in federal prison

Count Two – conspiracy to commit wire fraud – 20 years in federal prison

Count Three – money laundering conspiracy – 20 years in federal prison

Counts 12, 15 and 16 – illegal monetary transactions – 10 years in federal prison (each count)

Counts 18 – 27 – mail fraud – 20 years in federal prison (each count)

Counts 28 – 36 – wire fraud – 20 years in federal prison (each count)

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Tampa, Florida, as well as the U.S. Secret Service, Tampa, Florida and Newark, New Jersey Field Offices. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Rachelle DesVaux Bedke and Kelley Howard-Allen.