



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **FORT MYERS ATTORNEY INDICTED FOR MAIL AND WIRE FRAUD**

Fort Myers, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces today the unsealing of an indictment charging Joseph A. Troiano (62, Fort Myers) with one count of mail fraud and seven counts of wire fraud. If convicted of all counts, Troiano faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison for each count.

The Defendant, Joseph A. Troiano, was a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of Florida and the State of Maine. His areas of legal practice included taxation, business law and estate planning.

According to the indictment, from late 2007, through January of 2010, in Lee County, Florida, the defendant, without authority, permission or consent, converted and misappropriated monies belonging to his clients and other beneficiaries for his own purposes, including paying back other clients who had provided money to him for certain services. In furtherance of the scheme, the defendant made materially false, fraudulent, and misleading representations to certain clients, in order to conceal his activity. The indictment also alleges that the defendant used his clients' monies to invest in a Costa Rican real estate project through a company which the defendant managed and owned together with his wife.

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 unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert P. Barclift and Yolande G. Viacava.