

Southern District of Florida

Press Release

THREE DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS FOR ROLES IN \$826 MILLION SECURITIES FRAUD CONSPIRACY

September 25, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eric I. Bustillo, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida on this matter, and Jonathan I. Solomon, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced that defendants **Raquel Kohler**, **Ameer Khan**, and **Stephen Ziegler** were sentenced on September 24, 2007 to five (5) years' imprisonment, followed by three (3) years supervised release. In addition, U.S. District Court Judge Paul C. Huck I ordered defendants Khan and Ziegler to pay approximately \$826 million in restitution, while defendant Kohler was ordered to pay a portion of this restitution amount which totals approximately \$471 million. Each defendant's restitution obligation was ordered to be joint and several to the obligation of other defendants previously sentenced in connection with this fraud.

On July 17, 2007, Kohler, Khan, and Ziegler each pled guilty to an Information charging them with conspiracy to commit securities fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371. Raquel Kohler was the Chief Financial Officer of Mutual Benefits Corp. ("MBC"), a viatical and life settlement company that was closed by federal regulators in May 2004. Kohler helped MBC's undisclosed principals misappropriate investor money and deceived regulators about MBC's management.

Ameer Khan served as the president and nominee shareholder of Viatical Services, Inc., a related company that performed post-investment services in MBC's offering. Stephen Ziegler was an attorney who, among other duties, assisted MBC in the drafting of documents filed with state regulatory agencies. Both Khan and Ziegler concealed the identity of MBC's management personnel, who had criminal and regulatory histories.

Victims/investors may obtain information concerning this case, or submit victim impact statements concerning this case at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls/VictimWitness.html>.

Mr. Bustillo commended the investigative efforts of the FBI and the Southeast Regional Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The matter is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew K. Levi and Special Assistant United States Attorney Ryan Dwight O'Quinn.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.fsd.uscourts.gov> or on

Court for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.

Technical comments about this website can be e-mailed to the [Webmaster](#). PLEASE NOTE: The United States Attorney's Office does not respond to non-technical inquiries made to this website. If you wish to make a request for information, you may contact our office at 305-961-9001, or you may send a written inquiry to the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida, 99 NE 4th Street, Miami, FL 33132.