

Guy A. Lewis, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Hector M. Pesquera, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miami Field Division, and Jose Marrero, Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigation Division, Internal Revenue Service, Southeast Region, Plantation announced today that IVAN BURGOS, 42 of Davie, entered a guilty plea to a major felony count today in the on-going prosecution of various defendants relating to an international investment fraud involving more than \$117 million received by FINANCIAL FEDERATED TITLE & TRUST. CHERYL POINDEXTER, 53, of Studio City, California, also pled guilty to money laundering in connection with the scheme.

IVAN BURGOS was the Project Manager for Asset Security Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FINANCIAL FEDERATED TITLE & TRUST which was beneficially owned by FREDERICK C. BRANDAU, previously convicted and sentenced to 55 years in prison for his role in operating Financial Federated Title & Trust, Inc., and Asset Security Corporation. BURGOS acknowledged his role in conspiring to launder criminal proceeds received in connection with the on-going fraud.

BURGOS pled guilty to count 15 of the third superseding indictment, which charged him with conspiring to commit money laundering in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sec. 1956(h). BURGOS faces a maximum period of ten years in prison as a result of his guilty pleas, restitution possibly as high as \$117 million, and fines totaling twice the value of all funds he laundered. He also faces three years' supervised release. POINDEXTER acknowledged laundering at least \$197,000 in fraud funds on behalf of her boyfriend, Gary Pierce. She faces a maximum period of ten years in prison as a result of her guilty plea, restitution of more than \$700,000, and fines totaling twice the value of all funds she laundered. She also faces three years' supervised release.

BURGOS will be sentenced on June 15, 2001 at 10:30 a.m. in West Palm Beach; POINDEXTER will be sentenced that same day at 2:30 pm. Both defendants were originally released on bond, and remain on bond pending sentencing. The remaining defendants face trial beginning April 2, 2001 in United States District Court in West Palm Beach.

Mr. Lewis commended the efforts of Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents Gary Van Eerde, Anthony L. Yanketis, Gary Hellmer, and Stephen Lucchesi; and Internal Revenue Service Special Agents Klaus Hurme and Suzanne Kalwara for their detailed efforts in uncovering the massive scheme that led to the indictment. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ellen Cohen and Steve Carlton in West Palm Beach, Florida.