

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL NO. 13-40
v.	*	SECTION "K"
RACHELL THOMAS	*	

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

Were this matter brought to trial, the United States would prove, through competent witnesses and documentary evidence, the following beyond a reasonable doubt.

On April 20, 2010, an explosion and fire occurred on the Deepwater Horizon, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico where British Petroleum (BP) had been drilling a well. Thereafter, BP established the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) to administer, mediate, and settle certain claims of individuals and business for losses incurred as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident. The GCCF began receiving and processing such claims on August 23, 2010. The GCCF required any individual filing a claim to submit valid documentation as proof of loss or reduction in earnings due to the oil spill.

Beginning in or about September 2010 and continuing until in or about October 2010, the defendant, **RACHELL THOMAS**, agreed with other individuals (co-conspirators) to make false

claims to the GCCF for lost earnings. Pursuant to this agreement, and at the direction of **RACHELL THOMAS**, the co-conspirators provided **RACHELL THOMAS** with claim forms in which they falsely claimed to work for seafood restaurants and to have suffered financially through lost employment as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident. **RACHELL THOMAS** also completed a claim form for herself with the same false representation. To support these fraudulent claims, **RACHELL THOMAS** created false earnings statements from a fictitious restaurant and wrote letters from a fictitious supervisor of the restaurant. From on or about September 24, 2010, through on or about October 11, 2010, **RACHELL THOMAS** transmitted approximately 23 claims by means of a wire from a location within the Eastern District of Louisiana to the GCCF's office in Dublin, Ohio. Each claim included a claim form, a falsified earnings statement, and a falsified letter. From on or about December 17, 2010, through on or about December 21, 2010, **RACHELL THOMAS** and six of her co-conspirators each submitted a follow-up claim for additional funds. The total intended losses (amount claimed) for all of the above-mentioned claims was approximately \$188,500.00. On or about November, 24, 2010, the GCCF paid **RACHELL THOMAS** approximately \$8,000.00 as a result of her false claim.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:

RACHELL THOMAS
Defendant

Date

JOSEPH A. MARINO, JR.
Attorney for Defendant

Date

CHANDRA MENON
Assistant United States Attorney

Date