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Stephanie A. Finley  
United States Attorney  
(337) 262-6618  
[mona.hardwick@usdoj.gov](mailto:mona.hardwick@usdoj.gov)

**DUSON, LA MAN SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR  
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD**

*Defendant Ordered to Pay \$393,176.90 in Restitution*

**Lafayette, La.:** United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that Alton Credeur, 61, of Duson, La., was sentenced on Thursday to 12 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for theft of government property. U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote also ordered the defendant to pay \$393,176.90 in restitution to the United States.

Alton Credeur entered a plea of guilty on September 1, 2011, to a one-count Bill of Information charging him with theft of government funds. According to documents filed with the court, an investigation conducted by the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration (SSA), determined that Credeur was receiving disability benefits that he was not entitled to and had been engaging in unreported work activities for approximately five years while receiving the disability benefits.

As the investigation progressed, Special Agents determined that Credeur had engaged in work activities as far back as two years following his initial 1974 entitlement, and since 1985, had engaged in unreported work activities that would have disqualified him from entitlements. Due to Credeur's false statement and failure to report his work activities, the Office of Inspector General determined that he was not entitled to disability payments after January of 1986. At the guilty plea, Credeur admitted that from January 1986 to February 2011, he received \$393,176.90 in payments from the Government to which he was not entitled.

United States Attorney, Stephanie A. Finley, stated, "Social Security disability benefits are designed to provide a safety net for those who are injured and are no longer able to work. Mr. Credeur engaged in a decades-long fraud scheme to improperly enrich himself. Fraud of federal agencies is not something that we take lightly and anyone who participates in this type of criminal activity should know that they will be prosecuted."

The case was investigated by Special Agent Dirk Bergeron of the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration, Baton Rouge Resident Agency, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel J. McCoy.

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