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U.S. v. Darren Stokes Docket 12-CR-10318

The indictment alleges that from about 2008 to the present, Stokes engaged in a scheme to defraud in which he caused fraudulent invoices to be sent by fax to entities throughout the country purporting to be from business or trade associations and seeking payment for annual dues or for inclusion in an association directory. In fact, Stokes had no authorization from any such business or trade association to seek or collect such payments. The indictment alleges that faxed invoices were sent to members of associations including the American Dental Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Automotive Parts Remanufacturers Association, the American Trucking Association, the Associated General Contractors of America and the National Hospital Association. It is alleged that Stokes induced hundreds of businesses to send checks to mailing addresses that he controlled.

CASE STATUS

- An indictment was filed with the District Court in Massachusetts on September 27, 2012. On October 3, 2012 the defendant made his initial appearance and pled not guilty. The court has released the defendant on a \$50,000 non-surety bond with conditions.
- The next scheduled court appearance is a change of plea hearing on June 12, 2013 at 2:00 pm in Courtroom 21 before Judge Richard Stearns.

If you have already been identified as a victim in this case, information regarding the most current Court dates can be accessed through the Victim Notification System (VNS) at <u>WWW.Notify.USDOJ.GOV</u> by entering your personal VIN and PIN number which was previously assigned to you.

If you have provided an email address to the U.S. Attorney's office, updates regarding the case status will also be e-mailed directly to your e-mail address. If you have not provided an e-mail address, and would like to receive updates by e-mail please contact the U.S. Attorney's office victim assistance staff at USAMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov.

If you believe that you are a victim in this case, and have not received notices regarding the status of the defendants case, and would like to receive notifications, please contact the Victim Assistance Staff at 617-748-3100 to request to be added to the notification system.