



U.S. Department of Justice

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June 9, 2009

Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Valdez Andrews and Stanley Bryanch

**FINAL TWO DEFENDANTS CHARGED IN IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME
PLEAD GUILTY**

Valdez Andrews, 35 of Southfield, and Stanley Bryanch, 32 of Canton, pleaded guilty today for their role in an identity theft scheme, announced United States Attorney Terrence Berg.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by William Callahan, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service, Detroit Field Office.

Co-defendants Dontrell Jones , 31, of Detroit, Ashley Walker, 32, of Detroit, and Tamara Walker, 34, of Redford Township have previously pleaded guilty for their roles.

As alleged in the indictment, the defendants devised a scheme to defraud T-Mobile USA, Inc. ("T-Mobile"), Hewlett Packard Corporation ("HP"), and HSBC, a foreign financial institution. As part of the scheme the defendants would illegally access confidential data of T-Mobile, allowing them to steal the identities of real persons with favorable credit histories.

Defendants would then obtain credit or loans from HSBC in the names of the persons whose identities were stolen and use HSBC's credit to purchase computers and electronics equipment from HP. The defendants would have the electronics equipment shipped to addresses in the Detroit area which they controlled and retrieve the electronics equipment and sell it, at a steep discount, to third parties, thereafter leaving the persons whose identities were stolen with outstanding debts to HSBC, HP without its merchandise and HSBC without payment.

The scheme involved a loss to HP or more than \$500,000. And it involved the theft of identities of more than 200 persons residing in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Valdez Andrews and Stanley Bryanch both pleaded guilty today to one count of mail fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft before United States District Judge David M. Lawson. Andrews is scheduled to be sentenced on September 15, 2009 and Bryanch is scheduled to be sentenced on September 9, 2009.

Dontrell Jones and Tamara Walker each pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud on May 12, 2009 and are scheduled to be sentenced on August 26, 2009. Ashley Walker pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft on May 27, 2009 and is scheduled to be sentenced on September 10, 2009.

U.S. Attorney Berg stated, "This ID theft ring stole the good credit histories, and damaged the credit-worthiness, of victims in Michigan and 15 other states. This creates a huge problem, not only for the law-abiding individuals whose credit is damaged (and must be repaired), but also for companies such as HP and HSBC, which are victimized when the identity information is used to buy products which are not paid for."

This case was investigated by agents of the United States Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Varner.

