

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
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Trenton, New Jersey 08608



Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former FAA Supervisor at the William J. Hughes Technical Center
Sentenced to 24 Months for Contract Fraud Scheme

(More)

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TRENTON – A former Federal Aviation Administration supervisor at the FAA’s William J. Hughes Technical Center was sentenced today to 24 months in federal prison for accepting more than \$150,000 in corrupt payments from the former president of Digital Management Systems, Inc. in exchange for steering FAA contracts, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

U.S. District Chief Judge Garrett E. Brown, Jr., also ordered Darrell Woods, 51, of Winslow Township, to pay \$154,000 in restitution to the FAA and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. In sentencing the defendant, Judge Brown granted the government’s request for a downward departure from the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range due to the defendant’s cooperation with law enforcement authorities.

Judge Brown continued the defendant’s release on a \$250,000 secured bond pending his surrender to officials with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on a date to be determined by prison authorities.

Woods pleaded guilty before Judge Brown on June 13, 2007, to a two-count Information that charged him with one count each of wire fraud and money laundering.

Woods, who was employed at the FAA’s Technical Center located at the Atlantic City Airport, admitted that between July 2001 and December 2004 he received a stream of corrupt payments that totaled approximately \$155,000, with individual payment ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000, from Maria Lianidis, 45, of Linwood. In exchange, Woods used his official position to steer contracts to Lianidis and Digital Management Systems, Inc. (“DMS”), a computer engineering company based in Absecon.

Woods’ official duties as an FAA employee included participating in the development, testing, evaluation and deployment of computer systems by the FAA, as well as the contracting process related to these computer systems. Woods admitted structuring FAA contracts in a manner that was designed to favor Lianidis and avoid competition, allowing Lianidis to participate in drafting contract specifications without disclosure of such participation, and disclosing confidential FAA contract information, all during the period in which Woods received cash payments from Lianidis.

On Dec. 23, 2008, Judge Brown sentenced Lianidis to 48 months in federal prison, and ordered her to pay a fine of \$75,000 and to serve three years of supervised release. Lianidis had previously pleaded guilty before Judge Brown on Feb. 6, 2008, to three counts of bribery related to the corrupt scheme.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Ned Schwartz in New York, and the IRS Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord, with the investigation leading to the guilty pleas.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David A. Bocian and Hope S. Olds of the U.S. Attorney's Special Prosecutions Division.

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Defense Attorney: David E. Schafer, Esq. Federal Public Defender's Office, Trenton