

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102



Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

News on the Internet: News Releases and related documents are posted at our website.
Go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

Assistant U.S. Attorney:
SCOTT McBRIDE
973-645-2708

warn0907.rel
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 7, 2007

Former Analyst for R.W. Johnson Foundation Sentenced to
24 Months, Ordered to Pay \$324,000 in Restitution for Fraud

(More)

Public Affairs Office
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

TRENTON – A former financial analyst for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation was sentenced 24 months to months in prison Friday for employing a fraudulent scheme to divert matching charitable gifts from his former employer to himself, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Anne E. Thompson also ordered Benjamin Warner, 42, to pay \$324,875 in restitution to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – the amount that Warner improperly diverted in furtherance of his scheme. Warner was ordered to surrender to the federal Bureau of Prisons by Oct. 22 to begin serving his sentence.

Warner, who lives in Hamilton Township in Mercer County, pleaded guilty on June 6, 2006 to a one-count Information charging him with mail fraud.

As an employee of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Warner was eligible to participate in that organization's matching gift program, which matched employees' charitable donations up to fivefold. In early 2001, Warner approached numerous charities with a "fund-raising" proposal.

Warner offered to recruit donors from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to make gifts to these charities. The donors, he told the charities, would submit matching gift forms to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which would in turn remit matching funds to the charities. Once the charities received their funds, the proposal called for them to send Warner payment for the original donation, which he had procured for them, plus a periodic "financial consulting" fee.

Warner executed this proposed scheme with the unsuspecting charities until about March 2003, which resulted in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation sending roughly \$210,000 in matching funds to these charities. Warner donated his own funds to these charities and fronted funds for Robert Wood Johnson recruits to give to these charities.

Warner also employed the same scheme to cause Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to send \$114,875 in matching funds to his own charity, Tenth American Foundation, of which he was president, and the sole officer and employee, and he used a sizeable portion of those funds for personal purposes. Tenth American claimed to be a non-profit foundation established to help local families pay medical and education costs during times of need.

Christie credited Postal Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Acting Postal Inspector In Charge Eddie C. Woodson.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney McBride, of the U.S. Attorney's Violent Crimes Unit.

-end-

Defense Attorney: David W. Fassett, Esq., Chatham

