

Department of Justice

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PALMETTO MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR WIRE FRAUD AND FALSELY DELIVERING THREAT TO FEDERAL JUDGE, PROSECUTOR AND AGENT

Atlanta, GA -FRANKIE STEPHEN JETT, 52, of Palmetto, Georgia, was sentenced to prison today by United States District Judge Beverly B. Martin on charges of making false statements and wire fraud. JETT was sentenced to 3 years, 8 months in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. JETT was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$932,679 relating to a healthcare fraud scheme. JETT pleaded guilty to the charges on May 12, 2006.

United States Attorney David Nahmias said of the case, "This defendant falsely claimed that he was solicited to be part of a murder-for-hire scheme that was intended to intimidate a federal magistrate judge, prosecutor, and Secret Service agent. We must take all threats seriously, and those who waste our resources and spread fear through false threats will pay a price in prison time."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, and the documents filed in this case: JETT had been charged with healthcare fraud in a scheme which began in January 1997. The scheme involved the sale of fictitious health care accounts receivable to an investment trust in California. The investors lost nearly \$1 million as a result of the scheme.

In March 2006, after his indictment on the fraud charges and while awaiting trial in March 2006, JETT, through his attorney, notified the United States Attorney's Office in Atlanta of a plan to kill an Assistant United States Attorney, a U.S. Magistrate Judge, and a Secret Service agent. The plan was allegedly conceived by another federal inmate. U.S. Marshals and the FBI were notified of the plan and began an investigation and instituted protective measures for those threatened. Subsequent investigation proved JETT's claims to be false. JETT was then indicted on charges relating to the false threats.

Assistant United States Attorney Richard M. Langway prosecuted the case. For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-meus), United States Attorney, or Charysse Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <u>www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan</u>.