



Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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KENNESAW MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

ATLANTA, GA - ROBERT JOSEPH SELLECK, 42, of Kennesaw, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to three counts of wire fraud for improper receipt of Social Security disability benefits.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "Hardworking Americans who have paid into the Social Security disability trust fund should feel confident that these funds will be available if they ever become disabled. Mr. SELLECK stole money intended to help those who are unable to work."

"The public should be confident that our office, in conjunction with the United States Attorney, will investigate and prosecute individuals who defraud Social Security trust funds," said Guy P. Fallen, Special Agent-in-Charge, Social Security Administration-Office of the Inspector General (SSA-OIG).

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: The SSA-OIG identified a fraud trend in the Title II Disability Insurance Benefits (DIB) program in which fathers concealed their work activity from the SSA by supplying employers with the Social Security numbers of their sons who shared the same name. The SSA therefore initiated the "Junior/Senior Data Mining Project" to determine the extent to which this type of fraud was occurring within the Title II DIB program. The Junior/Senior Data Mining Project revealed that SELLECK worked for nearly eight years under his son's Social Security number while receiving disability benefits.

SELLECK applied for Social Security disability benefits in September 1996, alleging that he was unable to work. Based upon information that SELLECK provided to the SSA, he was granted disability benefits in December 1996. As part of the SSA's periodic reviews to assess the ongoing medical status of benefit recipients, SELLECK completed SSA paperwork in April 2003 stating that he had not worked since he became disabled. SELLECK completed additional SSA paperwork in March 2009, again stating he was not working and was unable to work. However, records obtained from Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. (TBS), indicated that SELLECK worked at TBS full-time as a

maintenance engineer from August 6, 2001, until April 24, 2009. SELLECK's misrepresentations and false statements caused the SSA to erroneously issue \$123,103.40 in disability payments to him and his dependant beneficiaries.

SELLECK was charged in a Criminal Information on July 29, 2010, with three counts of wire fraud. He pleaded guilty to all counts and could receive a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for each count and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Sentencing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., before United States District Judge Richard W. Story.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the SSA-OIG.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Loranzo M. Fleming is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or John Horn, First Assistant United States Attorney, through Yvette Comer, at (404) 581-6335. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.justice.gov/usao/gan.