

# NEWS

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

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 12, 2008

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Clifton Woman Arrested for \$10 Million Ponzi Scheme

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(More)

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NEWARK – A Clifton woman who raised in excess of \$10 million from hundreds of investors in connection with purported real estate investments was arrested today and charged with operating a Ponzi scheme, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie said.

Marcia Sladich, 50, was arrested this morning by Special Agents of the FBI and Postal Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at her home in Clifton.

A criminal Complaint charges Sladich with one count of mail fraud, which carries a maximum statutory prison term of 20 years and a fine of \$250,000. Sladich is expected to make an initial appearance and bail hearing at 2:15 p.m. today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz.

The Complaint alleges that beginning in 2004 and continuing through at least August 2007, Sladich solicited hundreds of investors, most of them fellow members of her church, to invest money with her and her company, Kay Services, LLC. According to the Complaint, Sladich told these investors that she was partnering with a successful businesswoman who would be responsible for investing their money in real estate in the United States and abroad. Sladich promised investors that the investments were safe and secure and guaranteed 100 percent annual returns.

The Complaint alleges that, contrary to her representation to investors, Sladich did not have a successful business partner. Rather, she forged that individual's signature on numerous investment contracts to deceive investors. Further, the Complaint alleges that there were no bona fide investments made on behalf of the investors during the course of the fraud. To perpetuate her fraudulent scheme, Sladich simply used new investor money to make required payments to existing investors

Sladich misappropriated at least \$400,000 of investor funds to purchase real estate in Florida and in Brazil for her personal benefit, and used other investor funds to pay for numerous personal expenses, including paying personal credit card bills and various everyday expenses, according to Justin W. Arnold, the Assistant U.S. Attorney who is handling the prosecution.

The Complaint is merely an accusation, and Sladich is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun in Newark, and Special Agents of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector in Charge David L. Collins, with the investigation that resulted in today's charges. Christie also thanked the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, under the direction of Mark K. Schonfeld, the Regional Director in New York, for their assistance in the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Justin W. Arnold of the U.S. Attorney's Office Securities and Healthcare Fraud unit in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Ravinder S. Bhalla, Esq. - Hoboken