

STATEMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY GREG FOURATT on the Sentencing of Ken Schultz

Ken Schultz once was a city councilor and mayor in Albuquerque. He was also a reasonably successful businessman and a man of considerable financial means. Today and in the future, however, he will best be remembered as yet another disgraced former politician, a seedy lobbyist, a shadowy bagman, and a convicted felon.

Whether he was motivated by the desire to remain a player on the stage of politics and power, whether he did it because that is how the lobbying game was played back then, or whether he did it because he assumed that he wouldn't get caught are questions only he can answer. But what we know for sure is that his criminal involvement in this scheme was not an isolated instance of poor judgment. Mr. Schultz was in his 60s when he agreed to act, and then acted, as a bagman for Manny Aragon, Toby Martinez, and Marc Schiff. And he did so repeatedly and over the course of many months, contributing to the theft from the taxpayers of New Mexico of more than \$900,000 in the architectural services portion of the Metro Court construction.

When approached by the FBI and presented with irrefutable evidence of his involvement, Mr. Schultz confessed, pleaded guilty, and agreed to provide truthful testimony against his confederates. Although his cooperation does not excuse the gravity of his crime, it does serve to justify the sentence he received today.

The citizens of New Mexico can take comfort in knowing that the vast majority of public officials across this state are decent, conscientious, and law-abiding persons who hold dear the public's trust. To any who would breach that trust, to any who struggle against the impulse to steal, and to any who are tempted to use taxpayer coffers as their personal piggybank, they have no business being in government. In the wake of the Treasurer's Office corruption case, the Insurance Division corruption case, and now the Metro Court corruption case, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the state Attorney General's Office, and the FBI are hopeful that the era of picking the taxpayers' pockets is at an end and that a new era rededicated to transparency, honest service, and fair play has begun.