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**GEORGIA MAN SENTENCED TO 63 MONTHS FOR BILKING VICTIMS
OUT OF MORE THAN 10 MILLION DOLLARS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that CECIL DAVID HALLMAN was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to 63 months' imprisonment for defrauding numerous individuals out of more than \$10 million dollars. HALLMAN pleaded guilty to conspiracy and wire fraud charges on September 21, 2005. In his plea, he admitted that he and his co-conspirators falsely represented themselves as able to obtain financing for victims' business and humanitarian projects, and required victims to pay advance fees for those services. HALLMAN and his co-conspirators instead kept the fees and did not provide the promised financing.

According to the Indictment and an earlier criminal Complaint in the case, between June 1997 and April 2001, HALLMAN was the principal of CDH & Affiliates ("CDH"), a purported financial consulting firm located in Fayetteville, Georgia. CDH represented itself as specializing in obtaining financing for business ventures and other projects that were unlikely to qualify for bank or other, more traditional, financing. According to the charges, HALLMAN made representations to numerous victims that, in exchange for an advance fee ranging from several thousand dollars to as much as \$70,000 or more, CDH would issue bonds, often in amounts of \$50 million or \$100 million, in the names of the victims' companies or humanitarian projects. HALLMAN told the victims of the scheme that the proceeds of these bond sales would be invested in so-called "high yield investment programs," which, HALLMAN represented, would generate sufficient funds to repay the bond holders and fund the victims' business ventures or projects.

According to the charges, the victims of this scheme never received any funding for their ventures or projects, nor a return of their advance fees. One victim, described in the

criminal complaint, sought out CDH to obtain financing to construct a non-denominational church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. HALLMAN falsely represented that, for an advance fee of \$50,000, he would issue bonds in the name of her project and sell the bonds in a "private placement" for \$50 million. However, the victim never received any funding for the project, nor a return of her initial \$50,000 fee. Other victims sought out HALLMAN to obtain financing for such business ventures as a cinema/restaurant on the island of Grenada and the construction of a cricket stadium. These victims paid HALLMAN advance fees in the tens of thousands of dollars, but they never received returns on their investments or their initial fees.

In sentencing HALLMAN, United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA emphasized that HALLMAN had caused numerous victims a great deal of suffering. Judge PRESKA stated that she will order restitution to these victims at a later date.

HALLMAN was indicted in May 2004 and charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and three counts of wire fraud. He pleaded guilty to the conspiracy count and one of the three wire fraud counts under a plea agreement with the Government.

HALLMAN, age 52, resides in Peachtree City, Georgia.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys JONATHAN S. ABERNETHY and BRET R. WILLIAMS are in charge of the prosecution.

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