



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 29, 2009

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL,
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**LEADER OF FAKE INVOICE MASS-MAILING SCAM SENTENCED TO
NINE YEARS IN PRISON**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that MICHAEL SCHLUSSEL was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to nine years in prison for running a scheme for ten years that, by mass-mailing tens of thousands of invoice-style solicitations, tricked companies into paying for goods that the companies had never ordered and never received. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge JOHN F. KEENAN.

According to the evidence established at trial and other documents filed in the case:

SCHLUSSEL operated a collections agency called "Alden Curtis and Michaels, Ltd." and took advantage of businesses that sometimes paid invoices without verifying that the goods were actually delivered. SCHLUSSEL did this by mass-mailing solicitations for fluorescent light bulbs, where the solicitations were styled to appear as invoices in the amount of \$995. In total, well over 400 companies sent at least \$700,000 worth of checks as a result of the fraud.

SCHLUSSEL, 56, was found guilty on March 10, 2009, on charges of conspiracy and mail fraud, following a seven-day trial before Judge KEENAN.

In addition to his prison term, Judge KEENAN sentenced SCHLUSSEL to three years of supervised release and restitution in the amount of \$646,750.

Mr. DASSIN praised the work of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

This case is being handled by the Office's Major Crimes Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys WILLIAM J. HARRINGTON and JULIAN J. MOORE are in charge of the prosecution.