



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER HOTEL PAINTERS' UNION PRESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY
IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO EMBEZZLEMENT**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and RALPH E. GERCHAK, the New York District Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards ("DOL-OLMS"), announced the guilty plea of EPHRAM PASCALL, the former President/Business Manager of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, Local 1422 (the "Union"). PASCALL pled guilty today before U.S. District Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD to one count of embezzling funds from the Union.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "Ephram Pascall, a corrupt union boss, treated the union's coffers like his personal piggy bank. Today's guilty plea underscores this Office's ongoing commitment to working with DOL-OLMS to root out corruption in our nation's unions."

DOL-OLMS New York District Director RALPH E. GERCHAK said: "This arrest is part of the ongoing effort of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards to accomplish its mission of protecting union assets by removing unscrupulous, corrupt union officials and thereby strengthening the American labor movement."

According to the Information, the Complaint, and statements made today in Manhattan federal court:

While PASCALL served as President/Business Manager of the Union, from February 2007 through April 2009, he wrote approximately 92 checks, totaling approximately \$34,199, to

himself from the Union's checking account. Almost all of the checks were cashed at a check cashing store.

PASCALL listed in the Union's records that the purpose of 66 of the checks was payment to various Union members who purportedly attended training with him, and thus had foregone their normal wages for that day. In truth and in fact, however, union members neither attended nor received any reimbursement for such training. The other 26 checks were for alleged union expenses, such as dinners, union member funeral expenses, office supplies, and meeting expenses. None of those expenses actually were incurred by the Union.

* * *

PASCALL, 48, of Brooklyn, New York, faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000, or twice the gain or loss from the offense. He will be sentenced by Judge BUCHWALD on October 12, 2011, at 4:45 p.m.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the DOL-OLMS and thanked the United States Marshal's Service for its assistance with PASCALL's arrest.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorney CARRIE H. COHEN is in charge of the prosecution.

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