



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2008

THREE CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT

PHILADELPHIA - Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the filing of an Indictment¹ against Martel T. Kirkland, Jr., Jay Cohen, Mark Heller, and Robert Fox. The indictment charges Kirkland and Cohen with conspiracy, mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, credit card fraud, wire fraud, uttering a forged security, and aiding and abetting. The indictment charges Heller with conspiracy and wire fraud. The indictment charges Fox with conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, credit card fraud, and aiding and abetting. Specifically, the indictment charges that, between November 2004 to January 2006, the defendants engaged in a scheme in which they paid various personal expenses with stolen credit card numbers and bank account information obtained by Kirkland. In exchange, Cohen, Heller, and Fox paid Kirkland a cash fee, usually 50 percent of the amount of the expenses paid. The indictment also charges Kirkland and Cohen with using stolen account information to create a \$30,000 counterfeit check that Cohen attempted to cash at a local bank branch.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Martel T. Kirkland, Jr.	Detroit, Michigan	51
Jay W. Cohen	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	52
Mark J. Heller	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	53
Robert Fox	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	54

If convicted, Kirkland and Cohen each face a maximum sentence of 115 years in prison with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence and a \$4.75 million fine. If convicted, Heller faces a maximum sentence of 35 years in prison and a \$1.25 million fine. If convicted, Fox faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison with a two-year mandatory minimum sentence and a \$750,00 fine.

¹ An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Postal Inspection Service, and it has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Joseph F. Minni.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
(215) 861-8525**

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae*