

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : **CRIMINAL NO. 11- 704**

v. : **DATE FILED: December 1, 2011**

MICHAEL R. GANTT : **VIOLATION:**
a/k/a “Michael Little” : **18 U.S.C. § 641 (conversion of government**
: **funds – 1 count)**
: **42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(A) (social security**
: **fraud – 1 count)**

I N F O R M A T I O N

COUNT ONE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this information:

1. The Social Security Administration (“SSA”), an agency of the United States, administered certain government benefit programs, including the Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) program, pursuant to Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1381-1383f (Title XVI of the Social Security Act).

2. The SSI program, which is funded through general tax revenues of the United States, provides monthly cash benefits to individuals who are “disabled” within the meaning of Title XVI of the Social Security Act and who, in addition, are eligible for the program on the basis of financial need, as determined in relation to both “income” and “resources,” as those terms are defined in the Social Security Act, Title 42 United States Code, Sections 1382a, 1382b.

3. For purposes of the Social Security Act, the term “disability” means the “inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.” 42 U.S.C. § 423 (d)(1)(A).

4. The ability of SSA to properly make initial determinations as to both an applicant’s medical and financial eligibility for SSI is directly dependent upon SSA’s access to accurate and current information regarding that applicant. Moreover, if an applicant initially is found to be eligible, and therefore becomes an SSI “recipient,” SSA’s ability to properly determine that recipient’s continuing eligibility, and the correct monthly benefit due that recipient, likewise is directly dependent upon SSA’s ongoing access to accurate and current information regarding that recipient.

5. SSA required disabled SSI recipients to advise SSA of any changes in their marital status, income, employment status, resources, address, living arrangements, family size and composition, and family income and resources.

6. SSA periodically conducted redeterminations during which SSA required SSI recipients to complete various forms and questionnaires as a means of updating eligibility and benefit level information. These forms and questionnaires, like the initial SSI application, required the recipient to provide accurate and current information regarding income, employment status, and resources. Also like the initial application, these forms and questionnaires again alerted the recipient of his or her continuing responsibility to notify SSA of any changes in his or her circumstances and conditions.

7. SSA used and relied upon the information self-reported by SSI applicants or recipients regarding his or her marital status, income, employment status, resources, living arrangements, family size and composition, and family income and resources to determine an applicant's or a recipient's eligibility for SSI disability benefits, and also to compute the proper dollar amount of an SSI recipient's monthly benefit.

8. SSI disability payments were terminated if the disabled individual's disability improved, the disabled individual returned to work, or died.

9. In or about July 1961, defendant MICHAEL GANTT, using the alias, "Michael Little," applied for and received Social Security number (SSN) xxx-xx-4776.

10. In or about January 1979, defendant MICHAEL GANTT applied for another SSN under the name "Michael Gantt," and indicated that he had never previously applied for a SSN. Defendant MICHAEL GANTT was issued SSN xxx-xx-4913.

11. In or about July 1995, defendant MICHAEL GANTT applied for SSI from SSA under the name "Michael Little," using the SSN xxx-xx-4776.

12. From in or about July 1995 through in or about June 2011, defendant MICHAEL GANTT, using the name "Michael Little" and SSN xxx-xx-4776 collected monthly SSI payments from SSA. Each month, SSA directly deposited a SSI check into Gantt's Citizens Bank account.

13. In or about October 2002, while he was receiving SSI payments from SSA, defendant MICHAEL GANTT began working for Aramark under the name "Michael Gantt," using SSN xxx-xx-4913. Defendant MICHAEL GANTT worked continuously for Aramark from in or about October 2002 through in or about September 2008 using the name "Michael Gantt" and SSN xxx-xx-4913.

14. Defendant MICHAEL GANTT did not notify SSA that he was employed and receiving income under SSN xxx-xx-4913 as “Michael Gantt,” while he was simultaneously receiving SSI under SSN xxx-xx-4776 as “Michael Little.” Therefore, SSA continued to deposit “Michael Little’s” monthly SSI checks into defendant Gantt’s Citizens Bank account.

15. The undisclosed employment and income received by defendant MICHAEL GANTT made him ineligible to receive SSA SSI payments.

16. Defendant MICHAEL GANTT improperly received approximately \$38,966.07 in SSI payments because he was employed and receiving income under another identity and was therefore ineligible for such benefits.

17. In or about September 2008, defendant MICHAEL GANTT (xxx-xx-4913) applied with SSA for DIB and SSI alleging that congestive heart failure prevented him from being gainfully employed.

18. From in or about September 2008 through in or about June 2011, defendant MICHAEL GANTT (xxx-xx-4913) collected monthly DIB and SSI payments from SSA. Each month, SSA directly deposited a DIB and SSI check into defendant Gantt’s TD Bank account.

19. Defendant MICHAEL GANTT did not notify SSA that he was receiving DIB and SSI under SSN xxx-xx-4913 as “Michael Gantt,” while he was simultaneously receiving SSI under SSN xxx-xx-4776 as “Michael Little.” Therefore, SSA continued to deposit monthly SSI checks into “Little’s” Citizens Bank account while also depositing monthly DIB and SSI checks into “Gantt’s” TD Bank account.

20. The undisclosed DIB and SSI received by defendant MICHAEL GANTT made him ineligible to simultaneously receive SSA SSI payments.

21. Defendant MICHAEL GANTT improperly received approximately \$10,110 in SSI payments because he was simulatenously receiving DIB and SSI under another identity and was therefore ineligible for such benefits.

22. From in or about November 2002 through in or about June 2011, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

MICHAEL GANTT

knowingly embezzled, stole, purloined or converted to his own use money of the United States in excess of \$1,000, that is, approximately \$49,076.07 in SSI benefits payments, which he was ineligible to receive.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

COUNT TWO

(Social Security Fraud)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

1. Paragraphs 9 through 21 of Count One of this indictment are incorporated here by reference.

2. On or about November 13, 2007, defendant MICHAEL GANTT applied for a Pennsylvania Identification Card in the name "Michael R. Little" from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) and, in support of his application, provided a Social Security account number xxx-xx-4776 that was issued to him by the Commissioner of Social Security based on false information that MICHAEL GANTT had furnished to the Commissioner of Social Security.

3. As a result of his fraudulent activity, MICHAEL GANTT received a photographic identification card from PENNDOT under the name, "Michael R. Little," a false and fictitious identity.

4. On or about November 13, 2007, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

MICHAEL GANTT

with intent to deceive, and for the purpose of obtaining a Pennsylvania Identification Card with a false and fictitious name from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, willfully and knowingly used social security account number xxx-xx-4776, a social security account number he received from the Commissioner of Social Security based upon false information he had furnished to the Commissioner of Social Security, in support of his application for a Pennsylvania Identification Card.

In violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(A).

ZANE DAVID MEMEGER
United States Attorney