



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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July 5, 2011

**LAWYER CHARGED IN SCHEME TO DEFRAUD LENDERS AND THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

PHILADELPHIA - A superseding indictment<sup>1</sup> was filed today against Mikel D. Jones in connection with a scheme to defraud a venture capital fund financed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. Jones is now charged with a total of one count of mail fraud, six counts of wire fraud, and two counts of money laundering.

Jones owned and operated a personal injury law firm, Mikel Jones Law Firm LLC, which was located at 1831 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. According to the indictment, Jones secured approximately \$150,000 from the Philadelphia Commercial Development Corporation ("PCDC") and the Minority Venture Partners Ltd. ("MVP") to expand his business. Instead of using the funds for this purpose, it is alleged that Jones diverted the funds to his personal bank and credit accounts and used the funds to purchase sports tickets and other luxury items. To conceal the fact that he was stealing the money, the indictment alleges that Jones laundered the funds through his personal bank accounts and credit card accounts.

It is further alleged that Jones owned and controlled several other shell companies, including Strata-Tech, Inc., New Millennium Political Network, Inc., and Visions 21st Democratic Club, which he used to defraud a lender of tens of thousands of dollars. In January 2008, Jones obtained a multimillion dollar line of credit from a lender in New York, referred to here as "Lender No. 1." Jones agreed that he would only use the proceeds of the line of credit for legitimate expenses related to the operation of his law firm and other approved expenses. Jones used his shell companies, the name of another media corporation located in the Philadelphia, referred to here as "Company No.1," and the name of his daughter, referred to here as "K.M.," to steal money from Lender No. 1 by creating fraudulent invoices purportedly on the letterhead of Strata-Tech and Company No. 1, falsely claiming that these companies had provided goods and services to Jones' law firm. Jones then laundered the funds he received from this fraud scheme through several bank accounts and used them for his personal expenses. In total, it is alleged that between February 2008 and February 2009, Jones obtained more than \$300,000 using fraudulent invoices and false representations to Lender No. 1.

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<sup>1</sup>An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	YEAR OF BIRTH
Mikel D. Jones	Boynton Beach, FL	1956

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service -- Criminal Investigation, and City of Philadelphia Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Paul Gray and Alexander Nguyen.

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