



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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For Immediate Release

June 21, 2011

**QUI TAM RELATOR CHARGED WITH  
MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT**

PHILADELPHIA – William G. Burch, a former employee of Champion Laboratories, Inc. (“Champion”), was charged by information<sup>1</sup> today in connection with making false statements to the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. The charges allege that Burch falsified a price increase letter and submitted it to the Antitrust Division in Philadelphia in order to bolster his claim of pervasive price fixing among auto filter manufacturers. According to the charges, Burch took these actions in order to influence the Antitrust Division to open a criminal grand jury investigation into price fixing in the replacement filters market.

In April and May, 2008, it is alleged that, after filing a qui tam lawsuit against Champion and others, Burch presented the falsified document to the Antitrust Division, and made false statements about that document. The charges allege further that the Antitrust Division in Philadelphia opened a grand jury investigation to determine whether manufacturers of automobile aftermarket filters had entered into a criminal price-fixing conspiracy, which the Antitrust Division would not have done had it been aware that Burch had falsified the price increase letter.

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT**

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
William G. Burch	Tulsa, Oklahoma	52

If convicted, Burch faces a maximum possible sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and restitution.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mary E. Crawley.

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

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