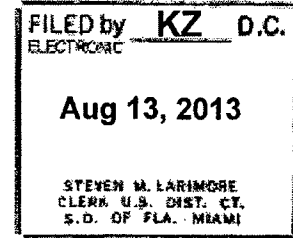


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
**13-80162-CR-HURLEY/HOPKINS**  
CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

18 U.S.C. § 1341  
18 U.S.C. § 1343  
18 U.S.C. § 1346  
18 U.S.C. § 1349  
18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C)



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

AVIATION FUEL INTERNATIONAL,  
INC. and SEAN E. WAGNER,

Defendants.

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INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

INTRODUCTION

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Ryan International Airlines ("Ryan") was an entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois with its principal place of business in Rockford, Illinois. Ryan provided air passenger and cargo services for corporations, private individuals, and the United States government. During the period covered by this Indictment, a significant portion of Ryan's business consisted of transporting personnel and cargo for the United States Department of Defense and the United States Department of Homeland Security on domestic and international flights.

2. During the period covered by this Indictment, Wayne Kepple was a resident of Lake Worth, Florida, located in Palm Beach County. Kepple was the Vice President of Ground Operations for Ryan. As part of his responsibilities, he contracted with providers of goods and services on behalf of Ryan and approved the invoices submitted by those providers to Ryan for payment. Kepple had a fiduciary duty to act honestly and faithfully in all business dealings with Ryan and to do business in Ryan's best interests. Kepple had a duty to inform Ryan about any personal benefit not provided by Ryan, including kickbacks or commission payments, that he received or expected to receive from working on any of Ryan's business transactions.

3. Company A, known to the Grand Jury, was an entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in Broward County, Florida. Aviation Fuel International, Inc. ("AFI") was an entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida with its principal place of business in Broward County, Florida. Company A and AFI were aviation fuel brokerage companies that purchased fuel from suppliers and sold it to individual airlines.

4. Sean E. Wagner ("Wagner") was a resident of Davie, Florida, located in Broward County. Wagner controlled and operated Company A from in or about August 2005 until at least August 2009 and controlled and operated AFI from in or about July 2006 until at least August 2009. Under Wagner's control, Company A

and AFI were engaged in the business of selling aviation fuel and equipment to Ryan for domestic and international flights.

5. Various individuals not made defendants in this Indictment participated as co-conspirators in the offenses charged herein and performed acts and made statements in furtherance thereof. Whenever this Indictment refers to any act, deed, or transaction of any company, it means that the company engaged in the act, deed, or transaction by or through its officers, directors, employees, agents, or other representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control, or transaction of its business or affairs.

**COUNT ONE – CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT  
HONEST SERVICES WIRE FRAUD  
(18 U.S.C. § 1349)**

6. Each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-5 of this Indictment is hereby realleged as if fully set forth in this Count.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFENSE**

7. Beginning at least as early as December 2005 and continuing through at least August 2009, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere, the defendants,

**AVIATION FUEL INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
and SEAN E. WAGNER,**

with Company A, Wayne Kepple, and other co-conspirators, did knowingly and willfully conspire, combine, confederate, and agree together and with each other to commit offenses against the United States, to wit, to violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 (wire fraud) and 1346 (theft of honest services), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349. Company A and Wagner joined and participated in the conspiracy beginning at least as early as December 2005 through at least August 2009. AFI joined and participated in the conspiracy from in or about July 2006 through at least August 2009.

**OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY**

8. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that AFI and Wagner, with Company A, Wayne Kepple, and other co-conspirators, knowingly devised and

intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive Ryan of the honest and faithful services of Kepple by making kickback payments to Kepple and concealing material information from Ryan. For the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive, and attempting to do so, the defendants did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate commerce certain writings, signs, signals, and sounds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1346.

**THE MANNER AND MEANS BY WHICH THE  
CONSPIRACY WAS CARRIED OUT**

The manner and means by which the defendants and their co-conspirators sought to accomplish the object and purpose of the conspiracy included, among others, the following:

9. Beginning at least as early as December 2005, Company A, Wagner, and others began making kickback payments to Kepple in exchange for Kepple awarding business for fuel supply services to Company A and Wagner. In or about July 2006, AFI, Wagner, and others began making kickback payments to Kepple in exchange for Kepple awarding business for fuel supply services to AFI and Wagner. During the course of the scheme, Kepple solicited and accepted over \$200,000.00 in kickback payments for fuel supply services and equipment that Company A, AFI, and Wagner provided to Ryan.

10. In his capacity as an employee of Ryan, Kepple provided favorable treatment to Company A, AFI, and Wagner, including continuing to award business

to Company A, AFI, and Wagner in exchange for kickback payments. Kepple and Company A, AFI, and Wagner also agreed to inflate the price of fuel and equipment sold to Ryan and to split the proceeds between them. Kepple foresaw or reasonably should have foreseen that Ryan might suffer an economic harm as a result of the breach of his fiduciary duty to Ryan.

11. Company A, AFI, Wagner, and others took steps to hide, conceal, and cover up their activity and the nature and scope of their dealings with Kepple, including wiring payments to the personal bank account of Kepple and making secret cash payments.

#### OVERT ACTS

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere:

12. Beginning at least as early as December 2005 and continuing through at least August 2009, Company A, AFI, Wagner, and others made kickback payments, totaling over \$200,000.00, in the form of checks, wire transfers, cash, and gift cards, to Kepple.

13. On or about December 8, 2005, at the direction of Wagner, Company A and others made a kickback payment of \$5,000.00 by check to Kepple.

14. On or about October 6, 2006, at the direction of Wagner, Company A and others made a kickback payment of \$3,500.00 by a wire transfer to Kepple.

15. On or about November 16, 2007, at the direction of Wagner, AFI and others made a kickback payment of \$10,000.00 by a wire transfer to Kepple.

16. On or about August 27, 2008, at the direction of Wagner, AFI and others made a kickback payment of \$5,000.00 by a wire transfer to Kepple.

17. On or about November 3, 2008, Wagner and others made, and caused to be made, a kickback payment of \$5,000.00 in the form of American Express gift cards to Kepple.

18. On or about May 12, 2009, AFI, Wagner, and others made, and caused to be made, a kickback payment of \$5,000.00 in cash shipped by FedEx to Kepple.

19. On or about June 29, 2009, AFI, Wagner, and others made, and caused to be made, kickback payment of \$2,000.00 in cash shipped by FedEx to Kepple.

20. On or about July 3, 2009, Company A, Wagner, and others made, and caused to be made, a kickback payment of \$5,000.00 in cash to Kepple.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

**COUNTS TWO AND THREE - WIRE FRAUD**  
**(18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1346)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

21. Each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-20 of this Indictment is hereby realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth in this Count.

22. Beginning at least as early as December 2005 and continuing until at least August 2009, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, in Broward County, in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere, the defendants,

**AVIATION FUEL INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**and SEAN E. WAGNER,**

with Company A, Wayne Kepple, and others, knowingly devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive Ryan of the honest and faithful services of Kepple by making kickback payments to Kepple and concealing material information from Ryan. For the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive, and attempting to do so, the defendants did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate commerce, the following writings, signs, signals, and sounds:



<u>Count</u>	<u>Date (On/About)</u>	<u>Interstate Wire Transmission</u>
TWO	August 27, 2008	Interstate wire transfer in the amount of \$5,000.00 from AFI's corporate bank account at Bank of America to Kepple's personal bank account at Bank of America
THREE	November 3, 2008	Purchase of \$5,000.00 in American Express gift cards on the American Express internet website <a href="http://www.americanexpress.com">www.americanexpress.com</a> to be delivered to Kepple

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1346.

**COUNTS FOUR AND FIVE - MAIL FRAUD**  
**(18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1346)**

The Grand Jury further charges:

23. Each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-22 of this Indictment is hereby realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth in this Count.

24. Beginning at least as early as December 2005 and continuing until at least August 2009, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, in Broward County, in the Southern District of Florida and elsewhere, the defendants,

**AVIATION FUEL INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**and SEAN E. WAGNER,**

with Company A, Wayne Kepple, and others, knowingly devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive Ryan of the honest and faithful services of Kepple by making kickback payments to Kepple and concealing material information from Ryan. For the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive, and attempting to do so, the defendants knowingly deposited and caused to be deposited, to be sent and delivered by FedEx Corporation, a private and commercial interstate carrier, the following matters:

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date (On/About)</u>	<u>Mail</u>
FOUR	May 12, 2009	\$5,000.00 cash from Sunrise, FL, to be sent and delivered to Kepple in Loves Park, IL
FIVE	June 29, 2009	\$2,000.00 cash from Sunrise, FL, to be sent and delivered to Kepple in Loves Park, IL

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1346.

**CRIMINAL FORFEITURE**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C))**

25. Upon conviction of one or more of the offenses alleged in Counts One through Five of this Indictment, the defendants, AVIATION FUEL INTERNATIONAL, INC. and SEAN E. WAGNER, shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461, any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the violations.

26. If any of the property described above as being subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

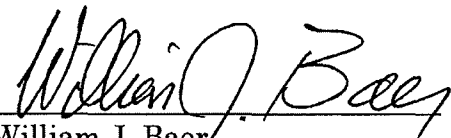
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred, or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

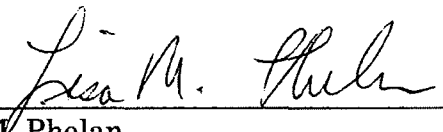
it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

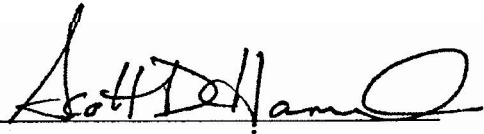
All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C); Title 28,  
United States Code, Section 2461; and Title 21, United States Code, Section 853.

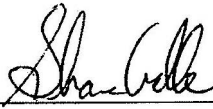
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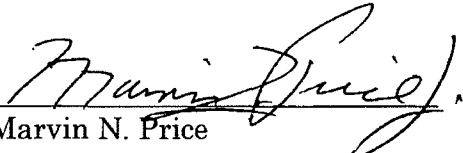
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Foreperson  
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