



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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**TWO MORE INDICTED, ANOTHER SENTENCED IN
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FRAUD CHARGES
RELATED TO A HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Two more Louisiana residents were indicted and one more sentenced in federal court today on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

REGMOND D. RIDGELY, age 38, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury with mail fraud (Count One) and with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits (Count Two). The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. If convicted on Count One, RIDGELY faces a maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. If convicted on Count Two, RIDGELY faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

CHRISTOPHER R. QUINN, age 22, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury with mail fraud (Count One) and with illegal conversion of government property, that is, a check from FEMA for expedited disaster assistance (Count Two). The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. If convicted on Count One, QUINN faces a maximum sentence of thirty years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. If convicted on Count Two, QUINN faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

GENEVA MARIA WAGNER, age 32, of Metairie, Louisiana, pled guilty on September 20, 2006, to an indictment charging her with wire fraud in obtaining disaster unemployment benefits for alleged losses resulting from Hurricane Katrina. WAGNER was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge James J. Brady to a term of imprisonment of one day, five years of supervised release, and \$8,253 in restitution. The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation of this matter.

Today's indictments bring the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to eighty-six.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes

such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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