



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2007
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TWO MORE SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEDERAL FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – Two more Louisiana residents were sentenced in federal court by U.S. District Court Judge James J. Brady on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

TIMOTHY E. DeCLOUET, age 39, of New Iberia, Louisiana, pled guilty on July 30, 2007, to a bill of information charging him with access device fraud in connection with his obtaining disaster unemployment benefits for alleged losses resulting from Hurricane Rita. DeCLOUET defrauded the Louisiana Department of Labor (LDOL) and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) by applying for and receiving approximately \$3,822 in benefits under the disaster unemployment assistance program from on or about September 29, 2005, to on or about June 27, 2006, while failing to notify LDOL of his unemployment after the storm. DeCLOUET was sentenced today to two years of probation, fifty hours of community service, and \$3,822 in restitution, which he has already paid. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation of this matter.

COURTNEY BROWN, age 27, of Port Allen, Louisiana, pled guilty on July 2, 2007, to Count Two of an indictment charging him with illegal conversion of government property, that is, a check from FEMA for expedited disaster assistance. BROWN was sentenced today to ten months of home confinement with electronic monitoring, three years of probation, and \$2,000 in restitution. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducted the investigation of this matter.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred thirty-one.

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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