

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
**25-CR-60163-DAMIAN/VALLE**  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

18 U.S.C. § 1349

18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

PATRICK BUCHANAN,

Defendant.

FILED BY BM D.C.

*Jun 27, 2025*

ANGELA E. NOBLE  
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.  
S. D. OF FLA. - MIAMI

**INFORMATION**

The United States Attorney charges that:

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

At all times relevant to this Information:

**Requirements to Become a Registered Nurse**

1. State Boards of Nursing were established to protect the public's health by overseeing and assuring the safe practice of nursing. Boards of Nursing achieve this mission by establishing the standards for safe nursing care and issuing licenses authorizing the practice of nursing. Once a license was issued, the Boards of Nursing held licensees to provisions defined in state laws and, when necessary, acted against the licenses of those nurses who have exhibited unsafe nursing practice.

2. The purpose of a professional license was to protect the public from harm by setting minimal qualifications and competencies for safe entry-level practitioners. Nursing was regulated because it is one of the health professions that poses a risk of harm to the public if practiced by someone who is unprepared and/or incompetent.

3. Typical components of licensure to be a Registered Nurse (RN) included, among other things, verification of graduation from an approved pre-licensure nursing program, verification of successful completion of the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), a criminal background check, and in some states—including New York—continuing education credits.

4. The Nurse Licensure Compact increased access to care while maintaining public protection at the state level. Under the Nurse Licensure Compact, nurses can practice in other Nurse Licensure Compact states, without having to obtain additional licenses. Approximately 42 states, including Florida, have enacted Nurse Licensure Compact legislation. The Nurse Licensure Compact required that every RN graduate from a board-approved RN prelicensure education program. Each state's nursing board governed the approval of nursing education programs.

#### **Defendant and Related Entities**

5. Sigma Institute of Health Careers, Inc., (Sigma) was a Florida for profit company incorporated on or about April 21, 2001, under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal address located at 1299 NW 40th Ave, Suite G, Lauderhill, Florida.

6. According to Sigma's Catalog, Sigma offered programs in Practical Nursing, Associate of Science Degree in Nursing, Home Health Aide (HHA), EKG and Phlebotomy Technician, Medical Assistant, Clinical Laboratory Technician, Medical Coding and Billing Specialist, Health Services Management, and Patient Care Assistant.

7. Defendant **PATRICK BUCHANAN**, a resident of Broward County, was the Owner, Registered Agent, and Manager of Sigma.

**COUNT 1**  
**Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 1349)**

1. The General Allegations section of this Information is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

2. From in or around 2017, through in or around October 2023, in Broward County, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant,

**PATRICK BUCHANAN,**

did willfully, that is, with the intent to further the object of the conspiracy, and knowingly combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with others known and unknown, to commit wire fraud, that is, to knowingly and with the intent to defraud, devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and for obtaining money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, knowing the pretenses, representations, and promises were false and fraudulent when made, and for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

**Purpose of the Conspiracy**

3. It was the purpose of the conspiracy for the defendant and his co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other things: (a) soliciting and recruiting co-conspirators, via interstate wire communications, seeking nursing credentials to obtain employment in the health care field; (b) creating and distributing, via interstate wire communications, false and fraudulent diplomas and transcripts for co-conspirators seeking licensure and employment in the health care field; (c) using the false and fraudulent documents

to obtain employment, pay, and other benefits in the health care field; (d) concealing the use of fraudulent documents used to obtain employment in the health care field; and (e) using proceeds of the conspiracy for their personal use and benefit, and the use and benefit of others, and to further the conspiracy.

**Manner and Means of the Conspiracy**

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

4. **PATRICK BUCHANAN** and others, via interstate wire communications, solicited and recruited co-conspirators who sought nursing credentials and employment in the health care field.

5. **PATRICK BUCHANAN** and others sent and caused others to send, via interstate wire communications, information used to create false and fraudulent official transcripts and diplomas from Sigma.

6. **PATRICK BUCHANAN** and others created and distributed, and caused to be created and distributed, via interstate wire communications, false and fraudulent transcripts and diplomas to co-conspirators and others, falsely and fraudulently representing that the co-conspirators attended and completed the necessary courses and/or clinicals to obtain nursing diplomas, when in fact the co-conspirators had never actually completed the necessary courses and/or clinicals.

7. In furtherance of the conspiracy, co-conspirators used the false and fraudulent diplomas and transcripts, and other records created and distributed by **PATRICK BUCHANAN** and others, to obtain nursing licensure in various states.

8. Co-conspirators used the false and fraudulent diplomas, transcripts and other documents created and distributed by **PATRICK BUCHANAN** and others to fraudulently obtain employment and benefits as a nurse at various unwitting health care providers throughout the country. Those health care providers hired and paid salaries, wages, and other benefits to the co-conspirators based on their fraudulent nursing credentials.

9. **PATRICK BUCHANAN** and others used the proceeds of the conspiracy for their personal use and benefit, and to further the conspiracy.

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

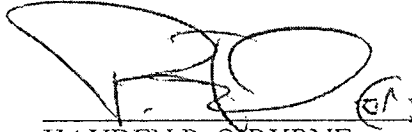
**FORFEITURE**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C))**

1. The allegations contained in this Information are hereby re-alleged and by this reference fully incorporated herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of certain property in which the defendant, **PATRICK BUCHANAN**, has an interest.


2. Upon conviction of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, as alleged in this Information, the defendant shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offense, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C). The property subject to forfeiture includes but is not limited to:

- i. a forfeiture money judgment in the sum of \$375,000.00 in U.S. currency, which sum represents the value of the property subject to forfeiture; and
- ii. substitute property, including, but not limited to: real property located at 3620 NW 40th Ct, Lauderdale Lakes, Florida 33309.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and the procedures set forth in Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. O'Byrne", written over a horizontal line.

HAYDEN P. O'BYRNE  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Clark", written over a horizontal line.

CHRISTOPHER J. CLARK  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CASE NO.: 25-CR-60163-DAMIAN/VALLE

v.

PATRICK BUCHANAN,

**CERTIFICATE OF TRIAL ATTORNEY**\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant.

Court Division (select one)

- ☐ Miami      ☐ Key West      ☐ FTP  
☒ FTL      ☐ WPB

**Superseding Case Information:**

New Defendant(s) (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of New Defendants \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of new counts \_\_\_\_\_

I do hereby certify that:

1. I have carefully considered the allegations of the Indictment, the number of defendants, the number of probable witnesses and the legal complexities of the Indictment/Information attached hereto.
2. I am aware that the information supplied on this statement will be relied upon by the Judges of this Court in setting their calendars and scheduling criminal trials under the mandate of the Speedy Trial Act, 28 U.S.C. §3161.

3. Interpreter: (Yes or No) No

List language and/or dialect: \_\_\_\_\_

4. This case will take 0 days for the parties to try.

5. Please check appropriate category and type of offense listed below:

(Check only one)

I ☒ 0 to 5 daysII ☐ 6 to 10 daysIII ☐ 11 to 20 daysIV ☐ 21 to 60 daysV ☐ 61 days and over

(Check only one)

☐ Petty☐ Minor☐ Misdemeanor☒ Felony

6. Has this case been previously filed in this District Court? (Yes or No) No

If yes, Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Has a complaint been filed in this matter? (Yes or No) No

If yes, Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Magistrate Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Does this case relate to a previously filed matter in this District Court? (Yes or No) No

If yes, Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Defendant(s) in federal custody as of \_\_\_\_\_

10. Defendant(s) in state custody as of \_\_\_\_\_

11. Rule 20 from the \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_

12. Is this a potential death penalty case? (Yes or No) No

13. Does this case originate from a matter pending in the Central Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office prior to October 3, 2019 (Mag. Judge Jared M. Strauss)? (Yes or No) No

14. Did this matter involve the participation of or consultation with Magistrate Judge Eduardo I. Sanchez during his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, which concluded on January 22, 2023? No

15. Did this matter involve the participation of or consultation with Magistrate Judge Marty Fulgueira Elfenbein during her tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, which concluded on March 5, 2024? No

16. Did this matter involve the participation of or consultation with Magistrate Judge Ellen F. D'Angelo during her tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, which concluded on October 7, 2024? No

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Christopher J. Clark*  
 CHRISTOPHER J. CLARK  
 Assistant United States Attorney  
 SDFL Court ID No. 0588040

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

PENALTY SHEET

Defendant's Name: PATRICK BUCHANAN

Case No: \_\_\_\_\_

Count #1:

Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349

\* **Max. Term of Imprisonment:** Twenty (20) Years imprisonment

\* **Mandatory Min. Term of Imprisonment (if applicable):** N/A

\* **Max. Supervised Release:** Three (3) Years

\* **Max. Fine:** The greater of \$500,000 or twice the value of the property involved

\*Refers only to possible term of incarceration, supervised release and fines. It does not include restitution, special assessments, parole terms, or forfeitures that may be applicable.



AO 455 (Rev. 01/09) Waiver of an Indictment

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Southern District of Florida

United States of America

v.

Patrick Buchanan,

*Defendant*

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Case No. **25-CR-60163-DAMIAN/VALLE**

**WAIVER OF AN INDICTMENT**

I understand that I have been accused of one or more offenses punishable by imprisonment for more than one year. I was advised in open court of my rights and the nature of the proposed charges against me.

After receiving this advice, I waive my right to prosecution by indictment and consent to prosecution by information.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Defendant's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of defendant's attorney*

Ignacio Alvarez, Esq.  
*Printed name of defendant's attorney*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Judge's signature*

HON. EDWIN G. TORRES, U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Judge's printed name and title*