



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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**ANOTHER SENTENCED, TWO MORE PLEAD GUILTY
IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Another Louisiana resident was sentenced and two more pled guilty in federal court on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

CHRISTOPHER R. QUINN, age 23, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on April 26, 2007, to a bill of information charging him with aiding and abetting the making of a false claim. QUINN was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge James J. Brady to two years of probation, \$2,000 in restitution, and twenty-five hours of community service. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

TIMOTHY E. DeCLOUET, SR, age 39, of New Iberia, Louisiana, pled guilty yesterday before U.S. District Court Judge James J. Brady 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 employment after the storm. The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General. As a result of his guilty plea, DeCLOUET faces a maximum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

WEST CLARK, age 28, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty today before U.S. District Court Judge James J. Brady to Count Two of an indictment charging him with illegal theft/conversion of government property. The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General. As a result of his guilty plea to Count Two, CLARK faces a maximum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office will dismiss Count One of the indictment when CLARK is sentenced on Count Two.

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 twenty-two.

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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