



Department of Justice

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**TWO NEW ORLEANS WOMEN
PLEAD GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT
TO POST-KATRINA BANK LARCENY**

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and James Bernazzani, Jr., Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced today that Renesha Brown of New Orleans, age 25, pled guilty to stealing money from ASI Federal Credit Union during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Brown plead guilty before U.S. District Judge Martin L.C. Feldman to bank larceny, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(b). Brown was a member of ASI Federal Credit Union at the time of Hurricane Katrina. Due to a computer malfunction caused by Katrina, ASI account holders were able to withdraw unlimited amounts of cash through ATM transactions and to make unlimited purchases with their ASI debit cards. Brown overdrafted her ASI account by \$8,482.88.

The maximum sentence Brown could receive is ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing is set for February 15, 2007.

In the second case, Chassity Deshone Hulbert Irving of New Orleans, age 32, pled guilty to stealing money from ASI Federal Credit Union and also to defrauding FEMA. Both crimes occurred during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Irving plead guilty before U.S. District Judge Martin L.C. Feldman to bank larceny, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(b), and also to making false statements to a government agency, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section, 1001(a)(2). Irving was a member of ASI Federal Credit Union at the time of Hurricane Katrina. Due to a computer malfunction caused by Katrina, ASI account holders were able to withdraw unlimited amounts of cash through ATM transactions and to make unlimited purchases with their ASI debit cards. Irving overdrafted her ASI account by \$18,333.67. She also applied for FEMA benefits even though she had moved to Atlanta one year

prior to Katrina.

The maximum sentence Irving could receive for bank larceny is ten (10) years imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000. The maximum sentence she could receive for FEMA fraud is five (5) years imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing for Irving is set for February 15, 2007.

These matters was investigated by Special Agents of the FBI assigned to the Katrina Fraud Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Mitchell, and former Assistant United States Attorney William Gibbens.

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