



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas  
Middle District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007  
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## **THREE MORE INDICTED, ANOTHER PLEADS GUILTY IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, TO FEDERAL FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Three more Louisiana residents were indicted yesterday and another pled guilty today in federal court on charges of fraud related to hurricane disaster relief programs, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced.

CHRISTOPHER A. EVANS, age 28, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in an indictment by a federal grand jury yesterday with five counts of mail fraud. The indictment alleges that EVANS received more than \$18,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster relief benefits to which he was not entitled. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General. If convicted, EVANS faces a maximum sentence of twenty years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, per count.

CHIQUITA L. WILEY, a/k/a Chiquita L. Griffin, age 33, of Port Allen, Louisiana, was charged in an indictment by a federal grand jury yesterday with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits and with making false statements to FEMA. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General. If convicted, WILEY faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, per count.

DENEATRICE D. CAGE, age 29, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in an indictment by a federal grand jury yesterday with one count of mail fraud (Count One) and one count of making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits (Count Two). The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by U.S. Postal Inspection Service. If convicted on Count One, CAGE faces a maximum sentence of twenty years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. If convicted on Count Two, CAGE faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

CORRINE FOSTER, age 52, of Franklin, Louisiana, pled guilty today before U.S. District Court Judge Frank J. Polozola to count one of an indictment charging her with wire fraud. FOSTER filed a fraudulent application for disaster unemployment benefits and, through her application and subsequent fraudulent representations to the Louisiana Department of Labor, FOSTER received \$7,545 in benefits to which she was not entitled. The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General. As a result of her guilty plea to count one of the indictment, FOSTER faces a maximum sentence of twenty years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office will dismiss count two of the indictment when FOSTER is sentenced on count one.

Yesterday'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 one hundred thirty-four.

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](mailto: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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