

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

**FELONY**

**BILL OF INFORMATION FOR  
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT WIRE FRAUD**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL DOCKET NO.
v.	*	SECTION:
RACHELL THOMAS	*	VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 371
	*	*
	*	*

The United States Attorney charges that:

**COUNT 1**

**A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN:**

1. The defendant, **RACHELL THOMAS**, was a resident of Orleans Parish in the Eastern District of Louisiana.
2. British Petroleum (BP) was a company whose activities included oil exploration and production in the United States and elsewhere and whose subsidiaries included BP Exploration and Production, Inc. (BP Exploration).

3. On or about April 20, 2010, an explosion and fire occurred on the Deepwater Horizon, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico that had been drilling an exploration well. The resulting oil spill, with which BP was associated, caused oil pollution across the Gulf of Mexico.

4. From in or about May 2010 through on or about August 23, 2010, BP operated a process for submission directly to BP and resolution by BP of claims of individuals and businesses for costs, damages, and other losses incurred as a result of the oil discharges due to the Deepwater Horizon incident.

5. In or about June 2010 BP established the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) for the purpose of administering, mediating, and settling certain claims of individuals and businesses for costs, damages, and other losses incurred as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident. The GCCF was administered by Kenneth R. Feinberg, a fund administrator responsible for decisions relating to the administration and processing of claims by the GCCF. On or about August 23, 2010, the GCCF began receiving and processing such claims, and BP ceased receiving and processing claims of individuals and businesses for costs, damages, and other losses incurred as a result of the oil discharges due to the Deepwater Horizon incident.

6. On or about August 6, 2010, BP Exploration established the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Trust, an irrevocable common law trust formed under Delaware law, to receive and to distribute funds that BP Exploration promised to provide for the payment of certain types of claims, costs, and expenses, including, but not limited to, those resolved by the GCCF.

**B. THE CONSPIRACY:**

Beginning in or about September 2010 and continuing until in or about December 2010, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, and elsewhere, the defendant, **RACHELL THOMAS**, and others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, knowingly and willfully conspired to devise and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud the GCCF and to obtain money by means of false and fraudulent representations, by transmitting and causing to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate commerce, from Louisiana to Ohio, any writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

**C. OVERT ACTS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CONSPIRACY:**

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to achieve the objects thereof, the conspirators committed and caused to be committed the following overt acts, among others, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere:

1. On or about September 24, 2010, the defendant, **RACHELL THOMAS** wired a claim form and fraudulent documentation to support the claim form from a location in the Eastern District of Louisiana to the GCCF's office in Dublin, Ohio. On or about November, 24, 2010, the GCCF paid **RACHELL THOMAS** approximately \$8,000.00
2. From in or near September 2010, and continuing through in or near December 2010, the defendant, **RACHELL THOMAS** wired 22 claim forms and fraudulent documentation to support the 22 claim forms from a location in the Eastern District of Louisiana to the GCCF's office in Dublin, Ohio. The 22 claim forms contained false representations that the defendant's co-conspirators worked at seafood restaurants. The fraudulent documentation included earnings statements falsely purporting to be from seafood restaurants and letters falsely purporting to be from the supervisors of seafood restaurants.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

## NOTICE OF FRAUD FORFEITURE

1. The allegations of Count 1 of this Bill of Information are realleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371, 1343 and 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. As a result of the offense alleged in Count1 , defendant, **RACHELL THOMAS**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

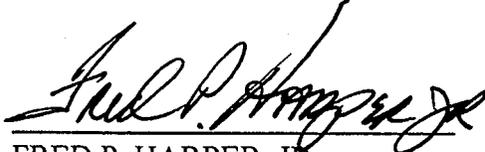
3. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

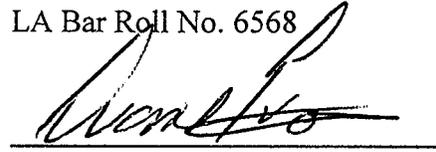
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

  
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New Orleans, Louisiana  
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