

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : HON.
 : Criminal No. 14-
 v. :
 :
 MIRIAM FRIEDMAN : 18 U.S.C. §§ 287, 2

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant to this Information:

a. The Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small-Business (“SDVOSB”) procurement program set aside government contracts for qualifying individuals and businesses in order to honor the extraordinary service of veterans with service-related disabilities.

b. To be eligible for a SDVOSB contract, a business must have met the following criteria: (i) qualification as a small business; (ii) more than 50-percent owned by a service-disabled veteran (i.e., a veteran whose disability resulted from service in the armed forces); and (iii) daily operations of the business managed and controlled by a service-disabled veteran.

c. The defendant, MIRIAM FRIEDMAN, owned and operated Office Dimensions, a small business offering furniture and commercial design services.

d. Neither the defendant nor her husband had ever served in the U.S. military.

e. The defendant's father-in-law was a retired U.S. military veteran who was not service-disabled and did not manage or control the daily operations of Office Dimensions.

THE FALSE CLAIMS

2. From in or about February 2010 through in or about April 2011, the defendant represented to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that Office Dimensions was a SDVOSB based on her father-in-law's prior military service and, on that basis, was awarded and paid monies for contracts that the defendant was not entitled to receive.

3. From in or about February 2010 through in or about April 2011, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

MIRIAM FRIEDMAN,

knowingly made and presented, and caused to be made and presented, to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, claims upon and against the United States for payment, which claims the defendant knew to be false, fictitious, and fraudulent.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 287 and 2.


PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney