

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

INDICTMENT FOR CONSPIRACY TO
ALTER POSTAL MONEY ORDERS
AND NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

FELONY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CRIMINAL NUMBER:

v.

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SECTION:

JARVIS WHEELER

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VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 371

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The Grand Jury charges that:

COUNT 1

A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN

1. Defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** resided within the Eastern District of Louisiana.
2. The Postal Money Orders purchased and altered in this matter were provided or issued by or under the direction of the United States Post Office Department or Postal Service and payable in the United States.

B. THE CONSPIRACY

Beginning on or about January 2016 and continuing through the date of this indictment, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, and elsewhere, the defendant, **JARVIS WHEELER**, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did knowingly and willfully

combine, conspire and agree with each other to commit certain offenses against the United States, that is, to falsely alter, in a material respect, United States Postal Money Orders, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 500 and 371.

C. MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

1. During the course of the conspiracy, in addition to other acts, the defendant, **JARVIS WHEELER**, with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, purchased United States Postal Money Orders in varying low face value amounts at various post offices.

2. It was a further part of said conspiracy that the conspirators then shipped the purchased United States Postal Money Orders to another state, where persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury altered the money orders, in a material respect, by falsely changing the numeric and written denominations to a higher face value.

3. It was a further part of said conspiracy that persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury would return the altered United States Postal Money Orders to the defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** and other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury.

4. It was a further part of said conspiracy that, once the altered United States Postal Money Orders were received by defendant **JARVIS WHEELER**, he, along with persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, fraudulently deposited the altered United States Postal Money Orders into various bank accounts for the higher face value amounts.

5. It was a further part of said conspiracy that after depositing the altered United States Postal Money Orders, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER**, along with persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would withdraw or attempt to withdraw the funds from the various banks after the United States Postal Money Orders had cleared.

6. It was a further part of said conspiracy that defendant **JARVIS WHEELER**, along with persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would split the proceeds of the altered United States Postal Money Orders and send the majority of the funds back to the co-conspirators who altered the original United States Postal Money Orders.

D. OVERT ACTS

On or about the following dates, in furtherance of and to effect the objects thereof, the defendant, **JARVIS WHEELER**, and co-conspirators, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, committed the following overt acts, among others, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere:

1. On or about January 14, 2016, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** deposited five (5) altered United States Postal Money Orders with a face amount of \$1,000.00 each (total deposit of \$5,000.000) into the JPMorgan Chase bank account of R.R., a person known to the Grand Jury.

2. On or about January 15, 2016, R.R. withdrew \$5,000.00 from his JPMorgan Chase bank account, kept \$1,500.00 and sent \$3,500.00 to coconspirators known to the Grand Jury.

3. On or about January 15, 2016, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** sent \$2,450.00 via MoneyGram to a conspirator/known or unknown to the Grand Jury in New Jersey.

4. On or about January 16, 2016, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** sent \$1,140.00 via MoneyGram to a second conspirator/known or unknown to the Grand Jury in New Jersey.

5. On or about January 16, 2016, at the United States Post Main Branch located at 701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** purchased a total of thirteen (13) United States Postal Money Orders for the face amount of \$1.00 each.

6. On or about January 18, 2016, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** sent a package via UPS in New Orleans, Louisiana, to an address in Newark, New Jersey.

7. On or about January 21, 2016, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** deposited ten (10) altered United States Postal Money Orders with a face amount of \$1,000.00 each (total deposit of \$10,000.00) into the JPMorgan Chase bank account of B.B., a person known to the Grand Jury.

8. On or about January 22, 2016, B.B. attempted to withdraw \$10,000.00 from his JPMorgan Chase bank account.

9. From on or about January 22, 2016, through February 23, 2016, the thirteen (13) United States Postal Money Orders purchased by defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the face amount of \$1.00 each (see Overt Act 5 above) were deposited into various bank accounts in New York state, with each United States Postal Money Order having been altered to reflect a face amount of \$1,000.00.

10. On or about February 10, 2016, defendant **JARVIS WHEELER** deposited five (5) altered United States Postal Money Orders with a face amount of \$1,000.00 each (total deposit of \$5,000.00) into the JPMorgan Chase bank account of D.H., a person known to the Grand Jury.

11. On or about February 11, 2016, D.H. withdrew \$5,000.00 from his JPMorgan Chase bank account, kept \$400.00 and gave **JARVIS WHEELER** \$4,600.00 in cash.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 500.

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

1. The allegations of Count 1 of this Indictment 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 500 and 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. As a result of the offenses alleged in Count 1, defendant, **JARVIS WHEELER**, 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 violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 500.

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 defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 500 and 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL:

FOREPERSON

KENNETH ALLEN POLITE, JR.
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Rivera', is written over a horizontal line.

EDWARD J. RIVERA
Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana
July 21, 2016