

UNITED STATES v. YAKOV MOROZ, PAULA JONES, KRISTY MAK, ANDRE PRINCE, KRISTEN SMITH
CRIMINAL DOCKET #CR-20-0342, USAO #2020R00491

Before the Honorable Denny Chin, United States Circuit Judge, Eastern District of New York,
225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York 11201

In 2020, the government charged Yakov Moroz, Paula Jones, Kristy Mak, Andre Prince, and Kristen Smith with conspiring to commit wire fraud. Between January 2017 and August 2020, Moroz and his codefendants operated several fraudulent moving companies using the names Movers Consulting Inc., C And D Moving, Inc., Compass Relocation Inc., Cross Country Moving and Storage Inc., First Class Moving and Storage, Green Movers of America Inc., Great Moving USA, New City Movers Inc., and American Choice Van Lines LLC. The defendants lured customers in by posting fake reviews online and by having sales associates offer low-cost transportation of their household goods. After a contract was signed and, in some cases, after the customer's belongings loaded on the truck, the movers would spring new expenses on them. If the customer tried contacting the sales associate about the surprise fees, that person was unreachable, and the customers were faced with the drivers threatening to hold their goods hostage unless they paid additional fees which were sometimes double or triple the original estimated cost.

Moroz absconded while on pretrial release and is currently a fugitive. Smith and Jones pleaded guilty and are respectively scheduled for sentencing on May 10, 2024 and May 29, 2024. Prince and Mak were convicted by a jury at trial and are respectively scheduled for sentencing on May 29, 2024 and September 17, 2024.

If you believe you are a victim of an offense in this case, please complete the victim verification form posted on our website.

Rights under the Crime Victims' Right Act

- (1) The right to be reasonably protected from the accused;
- (2) The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, involving the crime, or of any release or escape of the accused;
- (3) The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding;
- (4) The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, or sentencing;
- (5) The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case;
- (6) The right to full and timely restitution as provided by law;

- (7) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay;
- (8) The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy;
- (9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement; and
- (10) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.