U. S. Department of Justice

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NORTHERN FLORIDA DISTRICT PUBLIC CORRUPTION CASES JANUARY 2019 - JULY 2020

Elizabeth Shante Brown, U.S. Postal Employee
Former U.S. Postal Service employee Elizabeth Shante Brown, 30, of Panama City, Florida, was sentenced in January 2020 to serve 25 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to stealing and using debit cards and checks from postal customers, as well as cash from Post Offices. While working for the Postal Service at locations in Okaloosa, Walton, and Holmes counties in Florida, Brown stole postal customers' individual and business bank checks and debit cards from the mail between March 1 and May 31, 2017. She used the stolen debit cards to purchase or attempt to purchase items of value and used the stolen checks to obtain or attempt to obtain cash.
https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/former-united-states-postal-employee-sentenced-25-months-federal-prison-theft-united

Caron Griffis, Veteran Affairs Employee
Caron Griffis, 44, of Melrose, Florida, was sentenced in October 2019 to one month in federal prison, five months home detention, and 2½ years supervised release after she pled guilty to a charge of theft of government money. Griffis was employed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a supply technician at the Gainesville VA Medical Center. Griffis' responsibilities required that government purchase cards be issued in her name. For over a year, Griffis utilized her VA-issued purchase cards to obtain unauthorized items from retail stores, including Walmart and Office Depot, both in person and online. She also created false reconciliation forms in the VA computer system in an attempt to provide justification for the transactions and avoid being caught. In addition to her prison sentence, Griffis was ordered to pay restitution to the VA in the amount of $26,456.11, to Office Depot in the amount of $6,260.47, and to Walmart in the amount of $3,310.08.
https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/former-va-supply-technician-sentenced-federal-prison-theft-government-money

Phillip Golightly, U.S Bureau of Prisons
Phillip Golightly, 38, of Quincy, Florida, was indicted on July 7, 2020, on two counts of Sexual Abuse of a Ward. Golightly, a U.S. Bureau of Prisons Correctional Officer at Federal Correctional Institution Marianna, is charged with sexually assaulting an inmate while on temporary duty at Federal Correctional Institution Tallahassee. The indictment alleges that in

November 2019, while on duty as a Correctional Officer, Golightly sexually assaulted a female inmate while the inmate was under Golightly's custodial, supervisory, and disciplinary authority. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/bureau-prisons-correctional-officer-indicted-sexually-assaulting-inmate

Scott Maddox, Tallahassee City Commissioner
Janice Paige Carter Smith, Executive Director, Downtown Development Authority
John Thomas Burnette

Suspended Tallahassee City Commissioner Scott Charles Maddox and business associate Janice Paige Carter-Smith each pled guilty on Aug 6, 2019, to two honest services fraud counts and one tax fraud conspiracy count arising from a 47-count indictment. Maddox and Carter-Smith pled guilty to one count each of honest services wire fraud, honest services mail fraud, and conspiracy to defraud the United States. In the statement of facts filed in support of his plea agreement, Maddox admitted to having taken large sums of money in exchange for favorable actions on various issues that came before the City of Tallahassee. He participated in a scheme to defraud and deprive the City of Tallahassee and its citizens of its right to honest services through bribery. Carter-Smith admitted to participating with Maddox in these criminal acts.

Businessman and real estate developer Burnette is charged with participating in a racketeering conspiracy and extortion, honest services mail fraud, the use of facilities in interstate commerce to facilitate bribery, and making false statements to federal officers. He is charged with bribing Maddox and convincing other individuals to make bribe payments to Maddox. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/suspended-city-commissioner-maddox-associate-carter-smith-plead-guilty-corruption-tax

https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/superseding-indictment-adds-developerentrepreneur-racketeering-conspiracy

Guyland W. Thompson, Former Mayor of Milton

Guyland W. Thompson, 65, a former mayor of Milton, Florida, was sentenced in January 2020 to 51 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion. Thompson was ordered to forfeit $221,868.28 seized from his bank accounts and pay an additional money judgment of $430,132.33. Between 2011 and 2018, Thompson embezzled over $650,000 from United Way of Santa Rosa County (UWSRC) while employed as the charity's Executive Director and simultaneously serving as mayor. He maintained his scheme by making fraudulent misrepresentations to UWSRC's board members and employees, its parent nonprofit United Way Worldwide, and bank personnel. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/former-milton-mayor-and-ex-head-united-way-santa-rosa-county-sentenced-federal-prison

Joseph Barnes, Gadsden County Sheriff's Deputy

Gadsden County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Barnes, Jr., 52, of Quincy, was arrested in June 2019 on a federal criminal complaint alleging that he unlawfully used a communication facility to aid or facilitate the possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. According to the criminal complaint, Barnes actively aided individuals who distributed drugs in the Gadsden County area by alerting these individuals that federal law enforcement was watching them. In addition, he is alleged to have physically examined drug transport vehicles to determine if law enforcement had attached GPS tracking devices to vehicles about to be used for drug transportation. The complaint also alleges that he used his Gadsden County K-9, which was trained to detect the odor of narcotics residue, to determine whether a law enforcement K-9 could detect the presence of drugs in cars equipped with a hidden compartment to transport a load of

drugs. Barnes was subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury in Tallahassee on charges relating to the criminal complaint.
https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/gadsden-county-deputy-sheriff-charged-facilitating-drug-trafficking-offenses

Duane Edward Crawson, County Executive Director of USDA Farm Service Agency
In November 2019 a federal grand jury in Tallahassee returned a far-reaching indictment that unveiled a criminal network of 29 people – many of whom were current or former public officials – who actively worked to defraud the federal government and taxpayers of hundreds of thousands of dollars. At the helm of the scheme, a County Executive Director of the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency is charged with orchestrating a broad-based conspiracy to steal government drought assistance funds and hide the actions through identify theft, tax evasion, and other federal crimes with a criminal network of more than two dozen other people. The indictment alleges that Farm Service Agency director Duane Edward Crawson, 43, Bonifay, Florida, led the conspiracy that included a former Holmes County Clerk of Court and numerous other individuals who had served in positions of public trust and others in a variety of occupations. The indictment alleges that between May and December 2017, Crawson – while employed as the County Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency for Bay, Holmes, and Washington counties in Florida – devised a kickback scheme in which he and his co-conspirators unlawfully obtained approximately $373,483 in taxpayer funds by submitting fraudulent drought assistance claims. Crawson is alleged to have submitted fraudulent claims for livestock and farmland parcels that were not actually owned or leased by the conspirators, resulting in drought assistance funds being deposited into the conspirators' bank accounts. The co-conspirators are alleged to have paid Crawson a portion of the fraud proceeds in the form of cash kickbacks. 26 of the 29 defendants have pled guilty and the three remaining defendants are scheduled for trial later this month.

In addition to Crawson, the defendants are:
- **Jeremiah Joe Rolling**, 43, of Westville, Florida; Investigator, Office of the State Public Defender
- **Jordan Ryan Hicks**, 36, of Ponce De Leon, Florida; former Florida Department of Corrections Officer
- **Dwayne Frazier White**, 49, of Bonifay, Florida; former City of Bonifay Police Officer
- **James Stacey Paul**, 46, of Bonifay, Florida; Public Works, City of Bonifay, Florida
- **Kyle Martin Hudson**, 39, of Westville, Florida; former Holmes County Clerk of Court
- **Danyel Michelle Witt**, 44, of Bonifay, Florida; Clerk, United States Postal Service
- **Sheryl Day Gillman**, 52, of Bonifay, Florida; Secretary, Florida Farm Bureau
- **Shyloe Rose Sachse**, 40, of Bonifay, Florida; former Corrections Officer
- **Tillman Douglas Mears**, 30, of Bonifay, Florida; Public Works, City of Bonifay, Florida
- **Jennifer Marie McCabe**, 30, of Bonifay, Florida; Holmes County Council on Aging
- **Davey Eugene Mancill**, 44, of Westville, Florida; Mancill Masonry, LLC
- **Christopher Marion Ammons**, 31, of Ponce De Leon, Florida; heavy equipment operator
- **Dawn Marie Crutchfield**, 48, of Bonifay, Florida; medical assistant
- **Justin Mikel Chopelas**, 21, of Fayetteville, North Carolina; construction
- **Ronald Ryan Roof**, 23, of Westville, Florida; Specialist, Army National Guard
- **Megan Leann Roof**, 22, of Caryville, Florida; hotel clerk
- **Billy Coal Bradshaw**, 35, of Bonifay, Florida; auto parts employee
- **James Erwin Mancill**, 48, of Bonifay, Florida; auto parts employee
- **Joseph Matthew Crowder**, 47, of Caryville, Florida; brick mason, Mancill Masonry, LLC
- **Audrey Lynn Smith**, 32, of Caryville, Florida; convenience store clerk
- **Brian Anthony Ammons**, 44, of Ponce De Leon, Florida; heavy equipment operator

- **Taylor Ward Stripling**, 28, of Westville, Florida; farm laborer
- **Dawn Marie Roof**, 44, of Chipley, Florida; Licensed Practical Nurse
- **Daniel Olajuwon Boston**, 33, of Chipley, Florida; brick mason, Mancill Masonry, LLC
- **Chassity Lynn Lee**, 31, of Bonifay, Florida; auto parts employee
- **Justina Rae Williams**, 30, of Caryville, Florida; unemployed
- **Joseph Bailey Alexander**, 22, of Chipley, Florida; poker dealer
- **Douglas Edward Mixon**, 60, of Westville, Florida; farmer

Andrew E. Fisher, Health Care Fraud
Andrew E. Fisher, 34, of Gulf Breeze, was convicted in March 2020 of conspiring to use his pharmacy to defraud more than $4.8 million from TRICARE, a federal health care program for uniformed service members, retirees, and their families, and then laundering the money generated by the fraud. Fisher and five co-conspirators defrauded TRICARE and other insurance companies out of more than $6.5 million in fraudulent claims for prescriptions for compounded pain cream, scar cream, and wellness capsules. The co-conspirators convicted in two related cases for participating in the conspiracy were: Michael Scott Burton, initially sentenced to 96 months in prison; Bradley D. Pounds, sentenced to 21 months in prison; and Marie Ann Smith, Heather E. Pounds, and Brad T. Hodgson, each sentenced to probation.
https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/pensacola-compounding-pharmacy-owner-convicted-48-million-tricare-fraud-and-money

https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/georgia-man-sentenced-65-million-health-care-fraud-money-laundering-involving-tricare

Dr. Erik Schabert, Health Care Fraud
Mika Harris, Health Care Fraud
Erik M. Schabert, 48, a physician, and his ex-wife, Mika Kamissa Harris, 49, both of Gainesville, Florida, were convicted in January 2020 for health care fraud and money laundering charges involving more than $8 million. While owning and operating Reliant Family Practice in Gainesville, Harris and Schabert attempted to defraud health care benefit programs of more than $8 million by submitting fraudulent claims. Between January 2013 and July 2016, Reliant Family Practice received over $4.4 million from Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield for fraudulent claims for chemical peels and dermabrasions relating to false diagnoses of rosacea and actinic keratosis. Harris was convicted of conspiracy to commit health care or wire fraud, and 48 counts of health care fraud. Additionally, she was convicted of 41 counts of money laundering as a result of spending the fraudulently obtained proceeds on such things as paying off her home mortgage, adding a swimming pool and other home improvements, obtaining plastic surgery, purchasing commercial property, and funding an annuity for herself. Harris was sentenced to 90 months prison, followed by 3 years supervised release. Schabert was convicted of conspiracy to commit health care or wire fraud, and 24 counts of health care fraud. Schabert was sentenced to 42 months prison, followed by 3 years supervised release. In addition to receiving sentences of imprisonment and supervised release, Harris and Schabert were jointly ordered to pay $4,471,572.52 in restitution to Blue Cross Blue Shield.
https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/gainesville-physician-and-ex-wife-sentenced-federal-prison-health-care-fraud-conspiracy
Stephanie Fleming, Health Care Fraud
Helen Elizabeth Storey, Health Care Fraud
Stephanie Lynn Fleming, 42, and Helen Elizabeth Storey, 37, both of Waldorf, Maryland (and formerly of Tallahassee, Florida), were arrested in Maryland after a federal grand jury in Tallahassee returned an indictment in September 2019 charging them with conspiracy to commit health care fraud, 75 counts of health care fraud, false statements in connection with a health care

matter, and two counts of aggravated identity theft. In total, it is alleged that Fleming and Storey improperly obtained or attempted to obtain more than $250,000 from Florida Medicaid. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/florida-licensed-mental-health-counselor-and-counseling-center-owner-indicted-medicaid

Sharon L. Cochran, U.S. Postal Employee
U.S. Postal Service employee Sharon L. Cochran, 56, of Jay, Florida, was sentenced in July 2019 to one year of probation after pleading guilty to one count of detaining or delaying mail. In October 2018, while employed as a Rural Route Carrier at the Milton, Florida, Post Office, Cochran dumped and left approximately 1,700 pieces of mail in two wooded areas in Santa Rosa County, Florida.

Karleen Stinnette, U.S. Postal Employee
Karleen Stinnette, 42, of Chiefland, Florida, was sentenced in March 2020 to four years probation and ordered to pay $4,425 in restitution to the U.S. Postal Service after pleading guilty to one count of theft of government funds. While working for the U.S. Postal Service, Stinnette stole $4,425 from the Bell, Florida, Post Office on April 23, 2019. She then staged items in the work area in such a way to make it appear as though the Post Office had been burglarized.

Shelby Parker, U.S. Postal Employee
Shelby Parker, 49, of Gainesville, Florida, was sentenced in August 2019 to 24 months in federal prison and 3 years probation after pleading guilty to one count each of Theft of Government Funds and Aggravated Identity Theft. Between May 2016 and November 2017 Parker, a USPS employee, embezzled over $12,000 from the USPS by processing fictitious refunds and cashing fraudulent money orders made out to an individual whose identity he stole.

Andresha McClellan, U.S. Postal Employee
Andresha McClellan, 40, of Greensboro, Florida, was sentenced in June 2019 to time already served after pleading guilty to one count of Delay or Destruction of Mail. Between 2014 and 2017, McClellan failed to deliver over 16,000 pieces of U.S. Mail while employed as a USPS rural route carrier in Havana, Florida. Ultimately, she hid the mail in a personally rented storage unit, where it was found by an employee of the storage rental facility in November 2018.

Louise Smith, U.S. Postal Employee
Louise Smith, 62, of Newberry, Florida, was sentenced in August 2019 to 6 months in federal prison and 3 years probation and was ordered to pay $99,052 in restitution to the U.S. Postal Service after pleading guilty to Theft of Government Funds and Federal Workers' Compensation Fraud. In July 2004, Smith falsely claimed she sustained a lower back injury while employed as a letter carrier by the USPS. Smith then received more than $190,000 in federal workers' compensation benefits. She concealed her subsequent employment as a real estate agent and hid her true physical capabilities from her medical providers in order to continue receiving compensation.

Jamilla Hall, Mail Fraud and Identity Theft
Jamilla Ciar Hall, 30, of Tallahassee, Florida, was arrested on June 4, 2020, on charges of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, 5 counts of mail fraud, and aggravated identity theft. While employed with Intuition College Savings Solutions and providing customer service support to participants in the Florida Prepaid College Program, Ms. Hall is accused of cancelling existing Florida Prepaid plans and stealing the refund money. According to the indictment, Hall fraudulently submitted change of address forms for the accounts so that when she submitted cancellation requests, the refund checks were sent to addresses she had access to. She, or in

some cases her associates, would then fraudulently cash the checks. Hall faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment for mail fraud with a 2-year mandatory minimum sentence if convicted of aggravated identity theft.
https://edit.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/former-florida-prepaid-college-program-contractor-indicted-conspiracy-mail-fraud-and

Margo Anderson, Lynn Haven Mayor
Joseph Albritton, Lynn Haven City Attorney
Michael White, Lynn Haven City Manager
David Horton, Lynn Haven Director of Recreation & Parks
David White
Shannon Rodriguez
Joshua Anderson
Seven alleged conspirators were charged in two separate indictments stemming from a fraudulent scheme to process some $5 million in fraudulent invoices for Hurricane Michael cleanup work that was not performed. A 35-count indictment was handed down by a federal grand jury in November 2019, including charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, substantive counts of wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering against former Lynn Haven City Manager Michael Edward White, 46; Lynn Haven Community Services Director David Wayne Horton, 55; Erosion Control Specialists owner David Mitchelle White, 38; Greenleaf Lawn Care of Bay County owner Joshua Daniel Anderson, 43; and Shannon Delores Rodriguez, a/k/a Shannon Delores Harris, 37, all of Panama City. In August 2020, a grand jury then issued a 64-count indictment against Lynn Haven Mayor Margo Anderson, 65, of Jacksonville, Florida, and Lynn Haven City Attorney Joseph Adam Albritton, 33, of Lynn Haven, Florida, with multiple charges including conspiracy and additional corruption activities, including steering multi-million dollar contracts to favored contractors. Anderson and Albritton are charged with multiple substantive counts of wire fraud, and also charged in their official capacity with devising a scheme to defraud Lynn Haven and its citizens of their right to honest services through bribery or kickbacks. Albritton is also charged with defrauding an insurance company, and Anderson is also charged with making false statements to the FBI.
https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/lynn-haven-mayor-and-city-attorney-indicted-corruption-and-fraud-charges-stemming

https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/last-conspirator-pleads-guilty-5-million-fraud-over-hurricane-michael-cleanup-lynn

https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/former-lynn-haven-city-manager-community-services-director-and-three-business

Dr. Moses DeGraft-Johnson, Health Care Fraud
Kimberly Austin, Health Care Fraud
In February 2020, a grand jury returned an indictment charging Dr. Moses DeGraft-Johnson, 46, and Kimberly Austin, 50, both of Leon County, Florida, with conspiracy to defraud health care benefit programs and obtain money from them from November 2015 and February 2020. DeGraft-Johnson and Austin are charged with submitting fraudulent claims for providing services that were either upcoded, medically unnecessary but performed anyway, or not performed at all. They are also charged with falsifying documents to support their fraudulent claims. DeGraft-Johnson is charged with submitting over $1.2 million worth of claims for procedures that were not performed.

DeCarlisle Chapman, Corrections Officer, DOJ Bureau of Prisons
During the course of an investigation into a gang-affiliated drug trafficking organization, the DEA and the ATF, along with multiple state and local law enforcement agencies, also established that eight individuals were operating a large-scale illegal dogfighting operation in Gadsden County, as well as at other locations throughout the Northern District of Florida and Southern Georgia. The investigation into the dogfighting enterprise was assisted and led by investigators with the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Office of Inspector General. One of the defendants in this case, DeCarlisle Chapman, was employed in a position of trust as a federal corrections officer with the DOJ Bureau of Prisons during the investigation and while he was an active participant in the illegal dogfighting operation. He was indicted in late 2019.
https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna1018496?fbclid=IwAR1HtgVRZi1eIWUU9fGq383NORDI7jOtNpa2CeOsvjwK_wCpM27r0qP8eVw

https://edit.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/51-count-superseding-indictment-dogfighting-conspiracy

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida is one of 94 offices that serve as the nation's principal litigators under the direction of the Attorney General. To access available public court documents online, please visit the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida website. For more information about the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida, visit http://www.justice.gov/usao/fln/index.html.

The year 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Department of Justice. Learn more about the history of our agency at www.Justice.gov/Celebrating150Years.

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