

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

A. COURTNEY COX
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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Public Information Officer
FAUSA Randy G. Massey
(618) 628-3700

FLORIDA MEN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY AND MAIL FRAUD IN TIMESHARE RESALE SCAM

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on July 21, 2010, a federal grand jury returned an Indictment against **DARNELL DISROE**, age 38, and **MICHAEL LENTINE**, age 32, both of Boynton Beach, Florida; and **MICHAEL STARACE**, age 42, of Lantana, Florida. **DISROE**, **LENTINE**, and **STARACE** were each charged with conspiracy to commit certain offenses against the United States and mail fraud. In addition, **DISROE and LENTINE** each face four counts of mail fraud and **STARACE** faces a single count of mail fraud. Each count carries a penalty of up to 25 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both, and a term of supervised release of up to five years on each count.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge and is entitled to a fair trial at which the Government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The indictment alleges that the three operated under the name Real Timeshare Marketing and conducted a telemarketing timeshare resale scheme targeting timeshare owners throughout the United States and Canada. The indictment alleges that Real Timeshare Marketing falsely represented that it had found buyers for the consumers' timeshare interests and solicited fees of up to several thousand dollars from each consumer in purported pre-paid closing costs and related expenses. The indictment alleges that the purported sales did not occur, closings were not scheduled as was often represented, and, in fact, Real Timeshare Marketing did not successfully sell any consumer's timeshare interest. It is further alleged that Real Timeshare Marketing devoted essentially no resources to marketing their clients' timeshare interest and simply pocketed the purported closing costs. In just a five month period between roughly December 1, 2009, when telemarketing sales commenced, and April 28, 2010, when the scheme was interrupted by the United States Postal Inspection Service, it is alleged that Real Timeshare Marketing victimized approximately 615 consumers in forty-six states and six provinces in Canada of over \$1.3 million dollars.

The Indictment follows an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Boynton Beach, Florida Police Department. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Bruce E. Reppert for prosecution.