

**PRESS RELEASE**

# **Over 100 Defendants Federally Charged With Fraud Related To The COVID-19 Pandemic**

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

**For Immediate Release**

U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida

Tampa, FL – United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg announces the results achieved by the Middle District of Florida’s efforts to combat fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO-MDFL) has federally charged 109 individuals with fraud schemes designed to exploit state and federal programs implemented to alleviate the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts include complementary actions by the USAO-MDFL’s Criminal, Civil, Asset Recovery, Appellate Divisions, in cooperation with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

*“The Middle District of Florida United States Attorney’s Office, in cooperation with our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, is committed to holding accountable those people who schemed to steal or otherwise obtain through misconduct benefits intended for Americans coping with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said U.S. Attorney Roger Handberg.*

With respect to criminal enforcement, the USAO-MDFL and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies combined resources in March 2020 to form the Middle District of Florida COVID-19 Fraud Task Force with the purpose of identifying, investigating, and federally prosecuting fraud related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Since its inception, the Task Force has prosecuted 109 defendants for fraud schemes designed to exploit federal programs including the Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”), Economic Injury Disaster Loans (“EIDL”), Unemployment Insurance (“UI”), the Main Street Lending Program (“MSLP”), the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (“ERAP”), as well as government Healthcare programs such as Medicare. Collectively, these defendants

sought to defraud the United States of over \$96 million. Of the 109 charged defendants, 74 have already been found guilty while prosecution remains pending against 35 defendants.

The Middle District of Florida COVID-19 Fraud Task Force continues to aggressively investigate and prosecute individuals that took advantage of COVID-19 programs. On September 20, 2024, for example, a federal grand jury convicted Angela Chew (60, Leesburg) of conspiracy to bribe a public official and commit wire fraud, three counts of bribery of a public official, and six counts of wire fraud. Chew faces up to 5 years in federal prison on the conspiracy count, up to 15 years in federal prison on each of the bribery counts, and up to 20 years in federal prison on each of the wire fraud counts. Her sentencing hearing is scheduled for December 18, 2024.

According to evidence presented at trial, Chew conspired with three others to submit applications for COVID-19 EIDLs containing false and fraudulent information in exchange for bribe payments. The evidence showed Chew used her position as a loan specialist for the Small Business Administration (SBA) to internally access those loan applications that she and a co-conspirator had submitted on behalf of others. Chew then took actions on the applications within the SBA's internal processing system that moved the loans towards approval. For example, Chew submitted a loan on behalf of a co-conspirator's business that she knew was not active or operating at the time she submitted the loan. The loan was flagged as a duplicate by the SBA's internal system, which stopped the application from progressing toward approval and funding. Chew then entered the SBA's loan processing system, accessed the loan application, reactivated it, and manipulated the loan's status multiple times to progress the application toward approval and funding in the amount of \$150,000. In exchange, Chew received thousands of dollars in bribe payments from two of her co-conspirators. The evidence showed that Chew caused the funding of at least six EIDL applications, for a total loss of over \$800,000.

In July 2024, a federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment charging Jared Dean Eakes (33, Jacksonville) with five counts of wire fraud and three counts of bank fraud. According to the superseding indictment, Eakes participated in a scheme to defraud investors and fraudulently secured approximately \$4,752,270 in PPP loans. Eakes caused the submission of four PPP loan applications—including applications for two of the entities involved in the scheme to defraud investors—which contained false and fraudulent supporting documentation and statements regarding the entities' employees and payroll. Once Eakes obtained the PPP loans, he did not use the funds for qualifying expenses as required by the program. Instead, he used the funds to engage in options trading or withdrew the funds in cash.

In addition to criminal prosecutions, the MDFL-USAO continues to investigate and pursue civil redress against individuals and entities who fraudulently obtained PPP funds. For example, in September 2024, Miles Partnership, LLC ("Miles"), a travel and tourism consulting company headquartered in Sarasota, Florida, agreed to a civil settlement of \$2,281,950 to resolve allegations that Miles improperly obtained and received forgiveness for a second draw PPP loan. According to the information contained in the qui tam complaint, Miles was required to file a registration statement under FARA (Foreign Agents Registration Act) due to its work with various foreign tourism boards. The United States investigated these allegations with the cooperation of Miles. The civil settlement will conclude the lawsuit.

Further, the USAO-MDFL's Asset Recovery Division and federal seizing agencies have completed the forfeiture of more than \$20 million of EIDL, UI, and PPP funds that were fraudulently obtained, depriving the fraudsters of their ill-gotten gains and recovering the proceeds for the victims. More than \$18 million in additional pandemic fraud proceeds have been seized and are pending civil or criminal forfeiture.

The U.S. Attorney General has established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. For more information on the department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

Through the PPP, the federal government authorized over \$600 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses for job retention and certain other expenses through the PPP. The EIDL program provides economic relief to small businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. The MSLP provided support to small and medium-sized businesses and their employees across the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic. UI programs provided unemployment benefits to eligible workers who became unemployed through no fault of their own.

The criminal cases charged by the Middle District of Florida COVID-19 Fraud Task Force have been investigated by the Small Business Administration—Office of Inspector General, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service—Criminal Investigation, the Department of Labor—Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Postal Service, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation—Office of Inspector General, Homeland Security Investigations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, Federal Reserve Board—Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs – Office of Inspector General, U.S.

Agency for International Development, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, the Tampa Police Department, the Orlando Police Department, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, the Winter Park Police Department, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys throughout the Middle District of Florida.

The Department of Justice needs the public's assistance in remaining vigilant and reporting suspected fraudulent activity. To report suspected fraud, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud ("NCDF") at (866) 720-5721 or file an online complaint at: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/webform/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>. Complaints filed will be reviewed at the NCDF and referred to federal, state, local, or international law enforcement or regulatory agencies for investigation.

<b>United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida</b>			
<b>COVID Fraud Criminal Cases</b>			
<b>Charged Cases</b>			
<b>Defendant(s) (Age)</b>	<b>Charge(s)</b> <i>Max. Imprisonment</i>	<b>Type of Fraud*</b>	<b>Intended Loss Amount</b>
<b>Tampa Division</b>			
<b>Devontaie Deravil</b>	<b>Aggravated identity theft</b>  <i>Maximum Prison Term: Two Years Consecutive</i>  <b>Access device fraud</b>  <i>Maximum Prison Term: 10 Years</i>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$480k</b>

<p><b>Jordan Ross</b></p>	<p><b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i></p> <p><b>Illegal monetary transactions</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 10 Years</i></p>	<p><b>EIDL/PPP</b></p>	<p><b>\$1.3M</b></p>
<p><b>Marquett James</b> <b>Alyson Marquett</b></p>	<p><b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i></p> <p><b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i></p>	<p><b>EIDL/PPP</b></p>	<p><b>\$96k</b></p>
<p><b>Willie Murray Jr.</b></p>	<p><b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i></p> <p><b>Aggravated identity theft</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: Two Years Consecutive</i></p>	<p><b>HCF</b></p>	<p><b>\$5M</b></p>
<p><b>Charles Driver Jr.</b></p>	<p><b>Conspiracy</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 5 years</i></p> <p><b>Access device fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 10 years</i></p>	<p><b>UI</b></p>	<p><b>\$175k</b></p>
<p><b>Eric Canonico</b></p>	<p><b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i></p>	<p><b>PPP</b></p>	<p><b>\$2.3M</b></p>

	<b>Illegal monetary transactions</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 10 Years</i>		
<b>Alexander Leszczynski</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i> <b>Bank fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i> <b>Illegal monetary transactions</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 10 Years</i>	PPP	\$1.1M
<b>Capree Holmes</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	EIDL	\$159k
<b>Javarus Polite</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	PPP	\$20k
<b>Luis Morales</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	PPP	\$40k
<b>Rosson Hamilton</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	PPP	\$20k
<b>David Antonetti</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	PPP	\$40k

<b>Carlos Dones</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$14k</b>
<b>Santos Cruz Rivera</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$16k</b>
<b>Tevyan Hepburn</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$20k</b>
<b>Jeanty Cherilus</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>EIDL/PPP</b>	<b>\$370k</b>
<b>Gage Bowen</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$20k</b>

*These COVID Fraud cases from the Tampa Division are being handled by AUSAs Tiffany Fields, Greg Pizzo, Candace Rich, Jennifer Peresie, Michael Kenneth, Merrilyn Hoenemeyer, and Daniel Baeza*

### **Orlando Division**

<b>Evan Edwards</b> <b>Joshua Edwards</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit bank fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 30 years</i> <b>Bank fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 30 years</i> <b>Visa fraud</b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$8M</b>
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	<b>Maximum Prison Term: 10 years</b> <b>False statements</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 30 years</b>		
<b>Emmet Bowens</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b> <b>Illegal monetary transactions</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 10 Years</b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$740k</b>
<b>Latresia Wilson</b>	<b>False statements</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b>	<b>HCF</b>	<b>\$2.6M</b>
<b>Shawn Simmerer</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 years</b> <b>Wire fraud</b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$344k</b>
<b>Seth Downes</b>	<b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 years</b> <b>False claim</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 5 years</b>		
<b>Daniel Bohorquez</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud</b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$546k</b>



	<b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 years</b>  <b>Wire fraud</b>  <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 years</b>		
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***These COVID Fraud cases from the Orlando Division are being handled by AUSAs Kara Wick, Amanda Daniels, and DOJ Trial Attorney Keith Clouser***

<b>Fort Myers Division</b>			
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<b>Venera Price</b>	<b>Mail fraud</b>  <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b>	<b>ERAP</b>	<b>\$82k</b>
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<b>Timothy Jolloff</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b>  <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b>  <b>Money laundering</b>  <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b>  <b>Illegal monetary transactions</b>  <b>Maximum Prison Term: 10 Years</b>	<b>PPP/EIDL</b>	<b>\$2.1M</b>
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<b>Lisa Jolloff</b>	<b>Money laundering</b>  <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b>  <b>Illegal monetary transactions</b>  <b>Maximum Prison Term: 10 Years</b>	<b>PPP/EIDL</b>	<b>\$2.1M</b>
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<b>Diop McKenzie</b>	<b>Bank fraud</b>	<b>EIDL/PPP</b>	<b>\$237k</b>
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	<b>Maximum Prison Term: 30 years</b> <b>Wire fraud</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b> <b>Aggravated identity theft</b> <b>Maximum: Prison Term: Two Years Consecutive</b>		
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***These COVID Fraud cases from the Fort Myers Division are being handled by AUSA Yolande Viacava and Trent Reichling***

**Jacksonville Division**

<b>Jared Eakes</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</b> <b>Bank fraud</b> <b>Maximum Prison Term: 30 years</b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$4.7M</b>
<b>Natasha Hemming</b> <b>Tiffany Gonsalves</b> <b>Joshua Seedhaire</b>	<b>Conspiracy</b> <b>Access device fraud</b> <b>Aggravated identity theft</b> <b>Maximum: Prison Term: Two Years Consecutive</b>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$5.6M</b>

***These COVID Fraud cases from the Jacksonville Division are being handled by AUSAs David Mesrobian and John Cannizzaro***

### Ocala Division

**Lisa Starkes**

**Wire fraud**

**PPP**

**\$80k**

**Ivan Starkes**

***Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years***

***This COVID Fraud case from the Ocala Division is being handled by AUSA Hannah Nowalk***

### Adjudicated Cases

### Tampa Division

**Demarius Wilson**

**Wire fraud**

**PPP**

**\$18k**

***Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years***

***This COVID Fraud case from the Tampa Division is being handled by AUSA Michael Kenneth***

### Orlando Division

**Robert Burns**

**Wire fraud**

**PPP**

**\$57k**

***Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years***

**William Barrientos**

**Conspiracy to commit wire fraud**

**EIDL**

**\$693k**

**Grisoris Barrientos**

***Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years***

<p><b>Angela Chew</b></p>	<p><b>Conspiracy</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 5 Years</i></p> <p><b>Bribery of a public official</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 15 Years</i></p> <p><b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i></p>	<p>EIDL</p>	<p>\$732k</p>
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*These COVID Fraud cases from the Orlando Division are being handled by Amanda Daniels, Diane Hu, and Richard Varadan*

**Jacksonville Division**

<p><b>James Wigg</b></p>	<p><b>Wire Fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 years</i></p>	<p>PPP</p>	<p>\$476k</p>
<p><b>Crystal Harvell</b></p>	<p><b>Wire Fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 years</i></p>	<p>PPP</p>	<p>\$20k</p>

*These COVID Fraud cases from the Jacksonville Division are being handled by AUSA, Kevin Frein*

*and Tysen Duva*

**Ocala Division**

<b>Passion Jackson</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$20k</b>
<b>Nicole Harding</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$20k</b>
<b>Henry Wade</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Maximum Prison Term: 20 Years</i>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$500k</b>

*These COVID Fraud cases from the Ocala Division are being handled by AUSA Hannah Nowalk*

### **Sentenced Cases**

#### **Tampa Division**

<b>Louis Thornton, III</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <i>Sentence Imposed: 42 months in federal prison</i>	<b>EIDL/PPP</b>	<b>\$815k</b>
<b>Kary Stevenson</b> <b>Corey Quinn</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit access device fraud and aggravated identity theft</b> <i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years, 10 months in federal prison (Stevenson)</i>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$1M</b>

	<b><i>Sentence Imposed: 7 years in federal prison (Quinn)</i></b>		
<b>Bridgitte Keim</b>	<b>Bank fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence Imposed: 2 years in federal prison</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$588k</b>
<b>Wayne Ganaway</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence Imposed: 4 years in federal prison</i></b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$300k</b>
<b>Rolanda Wingfield</b>	<b>Access device fraud, aggravated identity theft</b> <b><i>Sentenced Imposed: 3 years in federal prison</i></b>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$135k</b>
<b>Eriaius Bentley</b>	<b>Racketeering conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, access device fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence Imposed: One year in federal prison</i></b>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$3M</b>
<b>Tywon Spann</b>	<b>Racketeering conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, access device fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence Imposed: 6 years and 9 months in federal prison</i></b>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$3M</b>

<p><b>Keaujay Hornsby</b></p>	<p><b>Racketeering conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, access device fraud</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed: 10 years and 10 months in federal prison</i></p>	<p><b>UI</b></p>	<p><b>\$3M</b></p>
<p><b>Kareem Spann</b></p>	<p><b>Racketeering conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, access device fraud</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed: 10 years and 10 months in federal prison</i></p>	<p><b>UI</b></p>	<p><b>\$3M</b></p>
<p><b>Randy Jones</b></p>	<p><b>Wire fraud, aggravated identity theft</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years and 1 month in federal prison</i></p>	<p><b>EIDL/UI</b></p>	<p><b>\$250k</b></p>
<p><b>Julio Lugo</b></p>	<p><b>Conspiracy to commit money laundering</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed: 7 years and 6 months in federal prison</i></p>	<p><b>EIDL/PPP</b></p>	<p><b>\$4.4M</b></p>
<p><b>Keith Nicoletta</b></p>	<p><b>Conspiracy to commit money laundering</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed: 24 months in federal prison</i></p>	<p><b>PPP</b></p>	<p><b>\$1.9M</b></p>

<b>Rosenide Venant</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit money laundering</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years in federal prison</i>	<b>EIDL/PPP</b>	<b>\$413k</b>
<b>Melinda Hernandez</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud,</b>  <b>wire fraud and aggravated identity theft</b>  <i>Sentence imposed: Three years and six months in federal prison</i>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$1.5M</b>
<b>Bri'antina Mills</b>	<b>Wire fraud and theft of government funds</b>  <i>Sentence imposed: 15 months in federal prison</i>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$10K</b>
<b>Jorge Gutierrez Echeverria</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b>  <i>Sentence imposed: Two years and six months in federal prison</i>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$150k</b>
<b>Omar Esquivel Bello</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b>  <i>Sentence imposed: 15 months in federal prison</i>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$242k</b>
<b>Steve Moodie</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, aggravated identity theft</b>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$1.5M</b>



	<b><i>Sentence imposed: 5 years and 10 months in federal prison</i></b>		
<b>Richard Simpkins</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit money laundering</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 5 years and 10 months in federal prison</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$1.9M</b>
<b>Devaris McClain</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud, access device fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 5 years and 1 month in federal prison</i></b>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$85k</b>
<b>Jalissa McDuffy</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 3 years supervised release with 6 months home detention</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$41k</b>
<b>Kieanna Garrett</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 60 days' imprisonment</i></b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$40k</b>
<b>Marqus Willard Johnson</b>	<b>Bank fraud</b> <b>Money laundering</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 18 months' imprisonment followed by 60 months supervised release</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$500k</b>

<a href="#">Mehdi Tazi</a>	<p><b>Conspiracy, Aggravated identity theft</b></p> <p><i>Sentenced imposed: 5 years imprisonment followed by 4 years supervised release</i></p>	UI	\$1.5M
Tyree Wingfield	<p><b>Conspiracy, Aggravated identity theft</b></p> <p><i>Sentenced imposed: 5 years and 10 months imprisonment followed by 4 years supervised release</i></p>	UI	\$1.5M
Dawn Ogundele	<p><b>Theft of government funds</b></p> <p><i>Sentence imposed: 2 years' probation</i></p>	PPP	\$20k
Alexander Alli	<p><b>Wire fraud conspiracy</b></p> <p><i>Sentence imposed: 13 months' imprisonment</i></p>	EIDL	\$80k
Charles Cunningham	<p><b>Bank fraud</b></p> <p><i>Sentence imposed: 21 months' imprisonment</i></p>	PPP	\$800k
Jailyn Holmes	<p><b>Wire fraud</b></p> <p><i>Sentence imposed: 5 years' probation</i></p>	PPP	\$20k
Nicole Bramble-King	<p><b>Wire fraud</b></p>	PPP	\$40k

	<b><i>Sentence imposed: 5 years' probation</i></b>		
<b>Tommy Louisville</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 12 months' imprisonment</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$33k</b>
<b>Joseph Abdo</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b>Illegal monetary transactions</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 5 years' probation</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$500k</b>
<b>Barrett Purvis</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b>Money laundering</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 2 years and 9 months in federal prison</i></b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$499k</b>
<b>Bergeline Lexis</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence imposed: 10 months in federal prison</i></b>	<b>EIDL/PPP</b>	<b>\$68k</b>

***These COVID Fraud cases from the Tampa Division were handled by AUSAs Rachel Jones, Greg Pizzo, Tiffany Fields, Diego Novaes, Jennifer Peresie, Merrillyn Hoenemeyer, Jay Trezevant, SAUSA Chris Poor, and DOJ Trial Attorney John Scanlon***

**Orlando Division**

<b>Daniel Johnson</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud, aggravated identity theft, unlawful transfer of firearm</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 7 years, 6 months in federal prison</i>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$2.3M</b>
<b>Jacquavius Smith</b>	<b>Possession of short-barreled rifle; felon in possession of firearm; and aggravated identity theft</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 7 years, 1 month in federal prison</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$10k</b>
<b>Johnson Eustache</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years in federal prison</i>	<b>EIDL/PPP</b>	<b>\$2.2M</b>
<b>Joseph Harrison</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 12 months in federal prison</i>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$2.1M</b>
<b>Tomas Ziupsnys</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit bank fraud; bank fraud; aggravated identity theft</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years in federal prison</i>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$2M</b>
<b>Holly Urban</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit bank fraud</b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$1.5M</b>

	<b><i>Sentence Imposed: 30 months in federal prison</i></b>		
<b>Joel Greenberg</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud and other offenses while on pretrial release</b>  <b><i>Sentence Imposed: 11 years in federal prison</i></b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$430k</b>
<b>Don Cisternino</b>	<b>Wire fraud, illegal monetary transactions, and aggravated identity theft</b>  <b><i>Sentence Imposed: 8 years and 6 months in federal prison</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$7.2M</b>
<b>Keith Ingersoll</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, aggravated identity theft</b>  <b><i>Sentence imposed: 9 years, 1 month in federal prison.</i></b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$66k</b>
<b>Jaheim Davis</b>	<b>Access device fraud and aggravated identity theft</b>  <b><i>Sentence imposed: 3 years, 6 months in federal prison.</i></b>	<b>UI</b>	<b>\$219k</b>
<b>Teresa McIntyre</b>	<b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud and other offenses</b>  <b><i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years' probation</i></b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$730k</b>

<b>Brian Blake</b>	<b>Possession of device-making equipment, access device fraud, aggravated identity theft</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 9 years and 8 months in federal prison</i>	PPP/UI	\$832k
<b>Joseph Faubert</b>	<b>Bank fraud</b>  <i>Sentenced Imposed: 5 years probation</i>	PPP	\$778k

*These COVID Fraud cases from the Orlando Division were handled by AUSAs John Gardella, Amanda Daniels, Chauncey Bratt, Emily Chang, Shannon Laurie, and Jennifer Harrington, and U.S. Attorney Roger Handberg*

**Jacksonville Division**

<b>Jacob Byrd</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years' probation</i>	PPP	\$10k
<b>Deonna Burke</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b>  <i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years' probation</i>	PPP	\$20k
<b>Desmond Williams</b>	<b>Wire fraud conspiracy, wire fraud</b>  <i>Sentenced Imposed: 5 years' probation</i>	PPP	\$40k

Kenneth Landers	<p><b>Wire fraud and illegal monetary transaction</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed: 1 year in federal prison followed by 1 year of supervised release</i></p>	PPP	\$1.4M
Christopher Daragjati	<p><b>Wire fraud , Theft of government funds, and Aggravated identity theft</b></p> <p><i>Sentenced imposed: 5 years' cisternino imprisonment followed by 3 years' supervised release.</i></p>	PPP	\$150k

*This COVID Fraud case from the Jacksonville Division was handled by AUSA Kevin Frein and Michael Coolican*

<b>Fort Myers Division</b>			
Casey Crowther	<p><b>Bank fraud, false statement to a financial institution, illegal monetary transaction</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed: 3 years, 1 month in federal prison</i></p>	PPP	\$2.7M
<p><b>Anthony Bruey</b></p> <p><b>Amber Bruey</b></p>	<p><b>Conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, illegal monetary transactions</b></p> <p><i>Sentence Imposed:</i></p>	PPP/EIDL	\$881k

	<p><b><i>Anthony Bruey: 4 years, 3 months in federal prison</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Amber Bruey: 4 years in federal prison</i></b></p>		
<b>Edrica Leann Watson</b>	<p><b>False statement to a lending institution</b></p> <p><b><i>Sentence Imposed: 15 months in federal prison</i></b></p>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$392k</b>
<b>Daniel Joseph Tisone</b>	<p><b>Wire fraud, bank fraud, money laundering, aggravated identity theft, possession of ammunition by a prohibited person</b></p> <p><b><i>Sentence Imposed: 7 years in federal prison</i></b></p>	<b>PPP/EIDL/MSLP</b>	<b>\$10.7M</b>
<b>Liliana Gonzalez</b>	<p><b>Wire fraud</b></p> <p><b><i>Sentence Imposed: 5 years of probation with 18 months of home confinement</i></b></p>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$169k</b>
<b>Al Clint LaRoche</b>	<p><b>Bank fraud</b></p> <p><b><i>Sentence Imposed: Two years in federal prison</i></b></p>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$1M</b>
<b>Denis Casseus</b>	<p><b>Bank fraud and illegal monetary transaction</b></p>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$298k</b>



	<b><i>Sentence Imposed: 2 years in federal prison followed by 3 years' supervised release</i></b>		
<b>Evan Graves</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence Imposed: 18 months in federal prison</i></b>	<b>EIDL</b>	<b>\$1.3M</b>
<b>Ismaelle Manuel</b>	<b>Bank fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence Imposed: Credit for time served followed by 5 years supervised release</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$280k</b>

***These COVID Fraud cases from the Fort Myers Division were handled by AUSAs Trent Reichling, Michael Leeman, Jesus M. Casa, Simon Eth, and Yolande Viacava***

### **Ocala Division**

<b>Lavelle Harris</b>	<b>Wire fraud</b> <b><i>Sentence Imposed: Two years and three months in federal prison</i></b>	<b>PPP</b>	<b>\$1.2M</b>
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***This COVID Fraud case from the Ocala Division was handled by AUSA Hannah Nowalk***

### **Types of Fraud\***

**Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)**

**Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**

**Unemployment Insurance (UI)**

**Main Street Lending Program (MSLP)**

**Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**

**Health Care Fraud (HCF)**

*Updated September 25, 2024*

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**Topics**

**CORONAVIRUS**

**ASSET FORFEITURE**

**DISASTER FRAUD**

**FALSE CLAIMS ACT**

**FINANCIAL FRAUD**

**Component**

[USAO - Florida, Middle](#)