



Selected News Stories (Names Redacted)

SAN ANTONIO
AND TEXAS
IN BRIEF

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SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005 **2B**

Man gets 12 years in paycheck scam

A leader of a group that cashed bogus paychecks and pocketed about \$500,000 was sentenced Tuesday to more than 12 years in federal prison.

..... was one of five defendants convicted for their roles in a scheme that falsified payroll checks and then recruited others to cash them at small businesses.

Sometimes using teenagers and supplying them with phony identification, the group targeted check-cashing businesses such as grocery stores in Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Missouri between 1997 and 2000.

Sentenced by U.S. District Judge, received a stiff penalty partly because he was identified as one of the organizers of the scheme, said the lead prosecutor, assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore.....

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SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006 **2B**

Check scam defendant tossed from court after disruption

A San Antonio man accused of participating in a fraudulent check-cashing ring went on trial Monday, but not before he watched some of the proceedings from a court holding cell.

....., was removed from the courtroom of U.S. District Judge as jury selection began because the judge deemed him disruptive.

"He simply does not want to go to trial," said.

Once removed, — who delayed his trial in January by claiming to be in pain — watched via video as jurors were picked.

He later asked to rejoin the trial as the government's first witness, a co-defendant already doing time, testified that played a leading role in the check scams.

..... is charged with conspiracy to pass fake checks, aiding and abetting others to pass fictitious checks, and bank fraud. He could face a minimum of 63 to 78 months in prison.

In January, collapsed on two consecutive days as a jury was to be picked. The judge delayed the trial so could be examined, and prosecutors argued that he was acting to stall the trial.

Before jury selection began Monday, unsuccessfully sought to fire his lawyer,

....., who is barred by the judge from filing frivolous pro-se motions, or motions on his own behalf, said would not file motions for him.

In opening arguments, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore told jurors that, his brother and others recruited young women to cash fraudulent paychecks of businesses that were made up. The women got a small cut, and the main suspects traveled across the state and Oklahoma to push the scam.....

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SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005 **2B**

Fraud trial opens for

'..... accused of trying to con insurance companies.

..... went on trial Tuesday on four counts of mail fraud.

The FBI alleges tried to pocket \$504,685 from two insurance policies meant to protect his businesses in the event of the deaths of key employees. According to federal authorities, the "key person" claimed was a man who mowed his lawn,, who died

The FBI and prosecutors contend stated on insurance forms that was an operations manager and "key person" for businesses..... apparently ran out of his home near.....

"Key person policies" insure key employees for up to five times their yearly earnings.

"The key person in this case was actually a disabled, mentally ill, alcoholic man who lived down the street from the defendant," Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore told jurors in his opening statement. "..... lived at home with his mother. He did odd jobs like picking up litter and mowing lawns."

Moore said took out one policy with Life Insurance on and opened another with Moore said claimed on one policy that made \$50,000 a year and, on another, claimed pay was \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year.

..... has pleaded not guilty.

"Our defense is that he didn't do it and that he had no intent to defraud," said, one of 's lawyers.....

..... If convicted,..... faces up to 20 years in prison. The trial in U.S. District Judge 's court is expected to last the rest of this week.

All asserted that their clients were never instructed to lie.....

Despite all the questions, the most important one that jurors must ponder as they continue deliberating today comes with only two possible answers: Guilty or not guilty.

8B | SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

TICKETS

CONTINUED FROM 1B

..... and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore focused jurors on the five on trial charged with wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

They are..... Moore said the five defrauded "out of revenue for air travel" by making material omissions and misrepresenta-

tions to help further the scheme.

The material omission, Moore said, was included in an instruction the said they passed on to their buyers — that if asked where they got the tickets, to never say they bought them. The misrepresentations, Moore argued, were that ticket buyers were instructed to falsely claim that they got their tickets because they were inconvenienced, dissatisfied with 's service or bumped off a flight.

According to Moore, the government's case established thatbought 98 tickets, got 167 (though she testified she got 250), 29, 22 and..... 40 to 60.

But each defense lawyer said the case was full of holes and called out investigators for exaggerations or mischaracterizations of what witnesses and suspects said.....

All asserted that their clients were never instructed to lie.....

Despite all the questions, the most important one that jurors must ponder as they continue deliberating today comes with only two possible answers: Guilty or not guilty.

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

Wedding thefts alleged

CONTINUED FROM 1B

The indictment said... would scan the newspaper for wedding announcements, then show up at the churches or other wedding sites.

While the weddings were in progress, the indictment alleged, ... would enter the room where members of the bridal party left their valuables. She would then go through the wal-lets and purses left unattended and steal credit cards, cash and other valuables, the indictment alleged.

"It just goes to show you gotta be aware of all the people at your wedding," said Assistant U.S. Attorney, a prosecutor in the white-collar crime section.

"It's certainly an unusual way to commit access device fraud," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore, who is prosecuting the case.

.....faces a maximum of 15 years on each fraud count. She faces up to 10 years on the possession charge.

6A | SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS | TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2010

FRAUD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

According to six indictments unsealed Monday, the suspects diverted some of the debit cards to friends, relatives or associates and used them to buy things for themselves. At least \$275,000 might have been wrongly diverted from child support payments, though ACS and the attorney general's office said the company, which was recently acquired by Xerox, has reimbursed the victims.

The indictments say the 13 acted in separate but similar schemes devised by six people who worked for ACS' call center in San Antonio:

Between October 2008 and June 2010, the indictments say, the six inappropriately accessed the ACS computer system, obtained client information and sent debit cards to addresses of their choosing or shared the stolen information with associates so that they could call in, impersonate child-support recipients and get debit cards sent to them.....

The indictments include charges of mail fraud, access device fraud and aggravated identity theft. If convicted, the suspects face a maximum of up to 20 years in prison.

Aggravated identity theft carries a mandatory two years in prison on top of whatever they might get on the other charges, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore said.

....., a spokesman for the attorney general's office, said

the agency "acted quickly to ensure ACS provided full payment to the affected child-support families."

ACS said it could not comment on the ongoing investigation but that it worked closely with law enforcement to identify those involved and will assist in their prosecution.

"Most importantly, no child-support recipients were denied benefits," spokesman..... said. "The affected card-holders have been notified and are receiving free credit monitoring to ensure their protection, and we have also re-viewed and upgraded our internal security procedures. The debit card system continues to be safe and reliable.....