



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Government Worker Admits Accepting Outside Employment During Hours He Was Supposed to Be on Duty

WASHINGTON - Larry W. Ricks, 61, has pled guilty to charges in a scheme to defraud the District of Columbia government by accepting outside employment during his normal duty hours as a District government employee, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Charles J. Willoughby, Inspector General for the District of Columbia, announced today.

Ricks, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on March 8, 2011 to four counts of false representation and one count of false statements. He was sentenced by the Honorable Senior Judge Bruce D. Beudin, who ordered him to serve 322 hours of community service - the amount of time that Ricks was away without leave from his government job. The judge also placed Ricks on one year of unsupervised probation.

According to the government's evidence, Ricks was a former program manager for the Addiction Prevention Recovery Agency (APRA), part of the District of Columbia Department of Health. While he had that job, he accepted outside employment as a mentor with a firm that had a consulting contract with the DC. Child and Family Services Agency. Ricks left his District government position during his normal hours of duty and did the outside work during that time.

An investigation by the D.C. Inspector General's office determined that Ricks was absent without leave for 322 hours from October 2006 through February 2008, thereby defrauding the District government of \$12,739 in lost wages.

In announcing the guilty plea and sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Inspector General Willoughby commended the work of Special Agent David R. Stupar from the Inspector General's office, as well as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Vanessa S. Phillips, of the D.C. Office of the Attorney General, who prosecuted the matter.

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