



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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CONTACT: SHEILA WILBANKS
PHONE: (601) 965-4480
FAX: (601) 965-4409

JURY RETURNS GUILTY VERDICT ON ELEVEN COUNTS OF KATRINA FRAUD

GULFPORT, Miss - William C. Breland, Jr., of Pass Christian, Mississippi, and Amber D. Dungan of Waverley, Missouri, were found guilty in U.S. District Court today to fraud against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today. In a trial before Senior District Judge Walter J. Gex, Jr., Breland, was convicted of 6 counts of FEMA fraud including false claim, false statement, stealing and mail fraud. Breland was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal immediately after the verdict. Dungan was convicted of 5 counts of FEMA fraud including false claim, false statement, stealing and mail fraud. She was released on bond pending sentencing January 7, 2009.

Breland faces a maximum of 85 years imprisonment and \$1,500,000.00 in fines. Dungan faces 65 years imprisonment and \$1,250,000.00 in fines.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Annette Williams was the prosecutor in this case, which was investigated by Special Agent James Grunwald of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In September, 2005, former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Matthew Friedrich, includes members from the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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