



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter
Southern District of Mississippi

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

“PILL MILL” DOCTORS LOSE MEDICAL LICENSES, OTHER PROPERTY

Gulfport, Mississippi - United States Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter announced today that the Medical Licenses of two Jackson County doctors have been forfeited as a result of their convictions for running a “pill mill.”

Dr. Thomas Trieu and Dr. Thu-Hoa Victoria Van, both of Biloxi, pled guilty to Dispensing Controlled Substances Outside the Scope of Professional Practice on June 26, 2009. Trieu was sentenced to serve eight years in federal prison and Van was sentenced to serve 1 year in federal prison.

In addition to the criminal case filed against the doctors, the United States also filed a civil forfeiture action against property the doctors either used or obtained as a result of their crimes. On October 12, 2010, United States District Judge Louis Guirola, Jr. ordered both Trieu and Van to forfeit their medical licenses to the United States, along with more than \$2,000,000.00 in cash, two homes and a 2007 Honda EXL.

Pharmacist Nick Tran, of Biloxi, was also charged in the indictment with Trieu and Van for his role in the illegal conduct. Tran was convicted by a jury on June 9, 2010 of one count of Conspiracy to Dispense Controlled Substances Outside the Scope of Professional Practice, 22 counts of Dispensing Controlled Substances Outside the Scope of Professional Practice, and one count of what is commonly known as the “Crack House” statute, which makes it illegal to use property for the purpose of distributing controlled substances illegally. Tran was sentenced to serve ten years in federal prison on October 7, 2010 by United States District Judge Louis Guirola, Jr. A civil forfeiture case is also pending against Tran, wherein the United States is seeking the forfeiture of Tran’s license to practice pharmacy as well as money and property he obtained as a result of his crimes.

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