



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Stan Harris  
Southern District of Mississippi**

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## **WEST POINT, MS WOMAN RECEIVES ONE YEAR IN PRISON FOR KATRINA FRAUD**

Gulfport, Miss. – Joshualyn Nix of West Point, MS, was sentenced in U.S. District Court on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, to 12 months in federal prison followed by 3 years of supervised release, U.S. Attorney Stan Harris announced today. She was also ordered to pay \$1,680.00 in restitution to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES). Nix pled guilty earlier this year to making false statements to a federal agency claiming that she was unemployed and that she received no income following Hurricane Katrina, when, in fact, she was employed and received income during the relevant period. Nix received Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) payments as a result of those false statements. MDES administered the DUA program in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. The program was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and overseen by the U.S. Department of Labor. This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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 Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Lanny A. Breuer, includes members from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security Office of 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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