



## United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II Northern District of West Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013

CONTACT: CHRIS ZUMPETTA-PARR  
(304) 234-0100

### **West Virginia Doctor Convicted of Health Care Fraud**

*Dermatologist also convicted of Bankruptcy Fraud, Identity Theft*

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA - A North Central West Virginia doctor was convicted today of twenty-two felony charges related to health care fraud, bankruptcy fraud, and the filing of false tax returns.

United States Attorney William Ihlenfeld, II, announced that Dr. Allen G. Saoud, 59 years old of Clarksburg, was convicted today after he was found to have schemed to circumvent his exclusion from Medicare and Medicaid to unlawfully obtain hundreds of thousands of dollars. Additionally, the jury found that Saoud committed bankruptcy fraud by testifying falsely under oath about his medical practice. Saoud was also convicted of lying to a federal agent about his medical practice, for committing aggravated identify theft, and for obstructing internal revenue laws by filing false income tax returns.

He faces up to 10 years in prison on each of the 13 health care fraud convictions, a minimum of two years in prison for the identity theft conviction, and between 3 and 5 years on the other convictions. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant. United States District Court Judge Irene M. Keeley presided over the trial and will impose the sentence as well.

In addition to facing prison time and monetary fines at the time of sentencing, Saoud may also be ordered to pay a money judgment of \$850,000.

“Health care fraud continues to be a significant problem in our country,” said U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld. “It’s unfortunate when medical professionals that we trust to take care of us engage in criminal behavior. But when it does occur the United States Attorney’s Office and our partners in law enforcement will be there to make sure that the wrongdoers are held accountable.”

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In 2005 Saoud was alleged to have submitted false claims to Medicare and Medicaid and as a result reached a settlement with the United States in which he agreed to pay \$310,000, and to voluntarily be excluded from all federal health care programs for 10 years. The charges Saoud was convicted of today were brought after it was determined by investigators that he had violated the 2005 agreement by continuing to benefit from Medicare and Medicaid.

Saoud is a doctor of osteopathic medicine, specializing in dermatology, and he is licensed to practice in the State of West Virginia. He was the sole owner and officer of AGS, Inc., a dermatological medical practice in Bridgeport, West Virginia.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew R. Cogar and was investigated by the United States Department of Health and Human Service-Office of Inspector General; the Internal Revenue Service; and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld commended the efforts of all of the investigators.

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