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NEWS ALERT

Date: September 21, 2004
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**D.A. LYNNE ABRAHAM DISCUSSES THE LATEST IDENTITY THEFT
SCAMS, THE LAW AND WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW TO
PROTECT THEMSELVES**

***FRAUDULENT EMAILS, 'PUMP AND DUMP,' 'PHISHING' AND OTHER
ONLINE AND TELEPHONE SCAMS ARE RAMPANT***

WHAT: NEWS CONFERENCE

**WHEN: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2004
11 AM**

**WHERE: DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
1421 ARCH ST.
FIRST FLOOR PRESS ROOM**

September 21, 2004—Identity theft continues to be the fastest growing crime in the country, and according to the Identity Theft Resource Center, more than 20% of all identity theft cases in the country involve the telephone and the Internet.

Most scams ask the consumer to provide either credit card account information or their social security number.

“The safest rule of thumb is never give out this information unless you initiate the purchase,” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham. “And even then you may decide against it. Once it's out, you never know who is going to see that information.”

D.A. Abraham will discuss the latest scams including the following:

1. Asking for the security code number on the back of VISA/MasterCard
2. 'Phisher' scams, which are verification scams via email that look like EBAY and PayPal
3. Variations on the Nigerian scam
4. Job applications that request social security number and/or driver's license number
5. "Pump and Dump" scams involving hot stock tips

The district attorney will also discuss the latest laws and increased cooperation among federal, state and local authorities.