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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit
Announces Recommendation of County Investigating Grand Jury
For Arrest of Philadelphia Attorney H. Allen Litt
Based on his Operation of a Corrupt Organization out of his Center City law office**

District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Linda Perkins, Chief, Insurance Fraud Unit, today announce that a Philadelphia Grand Jury has recommended charges and the arrest of Center City attorney H. Allen Litt, 58, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. The Grand Jury has also recommended charges and the arrest of Joshua Pitts, 63, Baheejah Alwan, 26, Aquilla Alwan, 23, and Rashad Alwan, 30, all residing in the 1700 block of Francis Street in Philadelphia. Accordingly, Mr. Litt has been charged as follows:

Corrupt Organizations 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 911-F1	1 Count
Conspiracy 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 903-F1	1 Count
Insurance Fraud 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4117-F3	31 Counts
Theft by Deception 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 3922-F3	21 Counts
Attempt Theft by Deception 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 3922-F3	13 Counts
False Swearing 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4903-M2	4 Counts
Dealing in Proceeds of Unlawful Activities 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 5111-F1	1 Count
Criminal Use of a Communication Facility 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 7512-F3	1 Count

Additionally, Pitts, Baheejah Alwan, Aquilla Alwan, and Rashad Alwan have each been charged with one (1) count of Insurance Fraud, Conspiracy, and related offenses based on the recommendation of the Grand Jury. Pitts has also been charged with one (1) count of Corrupt Organizations.

In October 2004, Chubb Insurance Company forwarded to the District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit information pertaining to a personal injury insurance claim filed by attorney H. Allen Litt. In the claim, Litt represented that his client was injured after falling in front of a check cashing business on North Broad Street in Philadelphia. During its investigation of the claim, Chubb investigators discovered a witness to the alleged accident who admitted that the claimant never fell.

Investigators assigned to the Insurance Fraud Unit subsequently uncovered numerous fraudulent insurance claims filed by Litt on behalf of his clients beginning in 1981. Witnesses and records seized in the course of the investigation established that, for over two decades, Litt ran a large-scale insurance fraud operation out of his Center City law office, using approximately 100 "runners" to locate and bring in potential claimants. It is alleged that Litt paid these "runners" to recruit claimants and, on occasion, act as claimants themselves, feigning injuries based on non-existent and falsified accidents. It is further alleged that Litt directed the recruited clients to obtain medical care from selected physicians and then instructed these clients to generate large medical bills by making frequent visits and receiving multiple treatments for their non-existent injuries. In each case, Litt filed a fraudulent insurance claim on behalf of his clients supported by inflated doctors' bills and other bogus documents. It is alleged that Pitts was, by far, Litt's most active "runner" and generated the most fraudulent insurance claims for Litt.

Evidence presented to the Grand Jury established that four (4) runners, including Pitts, alone brought in approximately **300** claims, resulting in well over **\$2.5 million** in payouts from insurance companies over the past 25 years.

In addition to Litt and the four (4) others charged based on the Grand Jury presentment released today, ten (10) co-conspirators have also been arrested by investigators assigned to the Insurance Fraud Unit. They include:

James Guinn, 63, of Green Valley, AZ, arrested 9/06
Insurance Fraud (9cts), Corrupt Organizations, related charges

Nate Shaw, 57, 900 block Rittenhouse St., arrested 12/06
Insurance Fraud (12cts), Corrupt Organizations, related charges

Lewis Crump, 65, 3000 block Page St., arrested 10/06
Insurance Fraud (2cts), related charges

Brenda Alexander, 43, 2500 block N.12th St., arrested 12/06
Insurance Fraud (1ct), related charges

Shirley Cottman, 38, 4500 block N. 15th St., arrested 1/07
Insurance Fraud (1ct), related charges

Carolyn Cottman, 45, 1400 block W. Pacific St., arrested 12/06
Insurance Fraud (2cts), related charges

Lucille Hickman, 46, 6700 block N. Carlisle St., arrested 1/07
Insurance Fraud (2cts), related charges

Beverly Johnson, 56, 2500 block N. 12th St., arrested 1/07
Insurance Fraud (2cts), related charges

Montez Tucker, 47, 1900 block N. Patton St., arrested 10/06
Insurance Fraud (2cts), related charges

John Whitmore, 59, 100 block N. 52nd Street, arrested 1/07
Insurance Fraud (1ct), related charges

It is alleged that Shaw, Guinn and Crump also acted as “runners” for Litt and participated in his corrupt organization. All three have pled guilty and cooperated with the grand jury investigation. Criminal cases are pending for the other defendants.

The Philadelphia District Attorney’s Insurance Fraud Unit is fully funded by state grants administered by the Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority. The Unit began operations in 1996 and has made over 990 arrests for insurance fraud and related offenses involving over \$18.2 million in fraudulent insurance claims.

Penalties:

- Felonies of the first degree (F1) are punishable by a maximum of twenty (20) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$25,000 each count.
- Felonies of the second degree (F2) are punishable by a maximum of ten (10) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$25,000 each count.
- Felonies of the third degree (F3) are punishable by a maximum of seven (7) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$15,000 each count.
- Misdemeanors of the first degree (M1) are punishable by a maximum of five (5) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$7,500 each count.
- Misdemeanors of the second degree (M2) are punishable by a maximum of two (2) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$5,000 each count.
- Misdemeanors of the third degree (M3) are punishable by a maximum of one (1) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$2,500 each count.