



Gun Violence Task Forces Arrests 12 More Suspects

Our [Gun Violence Task Force](#), Attorney General Tom Corbett and Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey [announced](#) the recent arrests of 12 illegal gun traffickers, including the man who allegedly purchased the gun used by Mustafa Ali to murder two armored car guards in October at a Northeast Philadelphia automatic teller machine. Since its December 2006 inception, with funding from the Pennsylvania Legislature, the Task Force has opened 505 investigations involving the illegal sale of firearms, made 112 arrests, and seized 190 firearms. In addition, the Task Force has assisted Philadelphia Police in solving numerous shooting, burglaries, and at least one homicide.

Priest Charged with Stealing Nearly \$1 Million from School & Religious Order

A Philadelphia Grand Jury empanelled by the District Attorney's Office has issued a [Presentment](#) finding that Father Charles Newman stole hundreds of thousands of dollars during his tenure as President of Archbishop Ryan High School from July 2002 to November 2003. The Grand Jury found that Newman misappropriated over \$331,000 of the school's funds through various methods, funneling most of it into accounts over which he held exclusive control with no supervision. While investigating the theft from Ryan, the Grand Jury discovered that Newman had also victimized his own order of Franciscan Friars by taking over \$552,000 in cash while he held the position of treasurer of the Franciscan bank accounts. The Grand Jury Presentment charged Father Newman with seven felony counts and further indicated that Newman had sexually abused high school students while he was president of the school. According to the Grand Jury's Presentment, Newman gave one sexual assault victim cash and checks totaling over \$19,000.

Grand Jury Recommends Charges for Philadelphia Attorney Accused of Operating Insurance Fraud Organization

As a result of a long Grand Jury [investigation](#) of Center City attorney H. Allen Litt our [Insurance Fraud Unit](#) recently [announced](#) the arrest and filing of charges against Litt based on his operation of a corrupt organization out of his Center City law office. Evidence presented to the Grand Jury established that four "runners" brought in approximately 300 phony claims for non-existent accidents and injuries, resulting in well over \$2.5 million in payouts from insurance companies over the past 25 years. Also arrested and charged were Joshua Pitts, Baheejah Alwan, Aquilla Alwan and Rashad Alwan for serving as the "runners" who sometimes claimed they were "victims." In addition, 10 co-conspirators have also been arrested by investigators.

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 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 Litt's most active "runner" and generated the most fraudulent insurance claims for Litt.

New Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey Visits Office

District Attorney Lynne Abraham recently met with new Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey at the District Attorney's Office. The meeting was an opportunity for introductions, information sharing and strategizing to combat the issues facing law enforcement in Philadelphia. The District Attorney's First Assistant and Deputies were also in attendance to provide valuable insights. The District Attorney's Office welcomes the new Commissioner to the City of Brotherly Love and looks forward to a continuing dialogue, which will make our city a better and safer place for all.

Insurance Fraud Unit Alleges Over \$439,000 Stolen by Phony Attorney

Our Insurance Fraud Unit recently announced the arrest of Philadelphian Mac Kenneth K. Ortiz Sr. for stealing over \$439,000 from 38 victims. Ortiz allegedly posed as an attorney, set up fake businesses to steal goods and services in a complex check kiting scam.

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania forwarded to the DA's Office a complaint by a client of Ortiz to the DA's Office. Insurance Fraud Unit investigators subsequently discovered that Ortiz had registered six corporations including three law firms and one non-profit medical corporation posing as a government agency. It is alleged that Ortiz falsely identified himself as an attorney licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and, thus, knowingly and intentionally deceived at least four persons into paying him and his law firm, known as Commonwealth Law Associates, PC, money for legal services that were never rendered. He represented himself as specializing in real estate, bankruptcy, and insurance matters.

Investigators further determined that Ortiz "operated" a fake bank known as Republican Financial Bank through which he generated phony bank deposits that were subsequently deposited into legitimate bank accounts or used as a banking reference to establish credit in the name of one of his fraudulent businesses/identities. It is alleged that Ortiz also knowingly and intentionally deceived various businesses by contracting with them for goods and services, for which he never paid. He used various fictitious identities and stolen identities, bad checks, and multiple credit card accounts secured with fraudulent business, personal and banking information to facilitate his protracted deception and theft.

Assistant District Attorney File Markings

Benjamin Walker, 20, was convicted by a jury of robbery, aggravated assault, and related offenses for crimes he committed in University City. He was sentenced on December 12, 2007 to 17 1/2 to 35 years incarceration. When he was a juvenile, Walker had been adjudicated delinquent for four robberies.

Michael Clark was convicted on January 4, 2008, of theft for stealing a handbag from a female tourist in the lobby of a Center City hotel. The victim saw the defendant stealing her handbag, yelled for security and the police caught the defendant several blocks away after he fled the hotel. Defendant was sentenced to the maximum possible penalty, one to two years in state prison. The defendant had 12 prior convictions dating back to 1981.

Lebrente Robinson and **Jacoby Robinson** were sentenced on January 14, 2008 for the Salmon Street home invasion rape/robbery of three young people, two of whom were Temple University students. Labrente Robinson was sentenced to 90-180 years in state prison and Jacoby Robinson was sentenced to 87 1/2-175 years in state prison, followed by 10 years probation.

Barry Mason, the defendant, was initially robbed by his victim of a necklace in the early morning hours of August 4, 2006. Mason proceeded to chase the victim in a car, and struck the victim with the car, knocking him down near 11th and Pine Streets. Mason then got out of the car and shot the victim 7 times, killing him. The jury returned a verdict of first degree murder on January 14, 2008 and defendant was sentenced to life in prison that same day.

Mark McClary was convicted by a jury of raping, robbing and carjacking a college student. The defendant approached her as she was unloading groceries from her car. He dragged her into a nearby alley and assaulted her. After the attack he fled - with her car keys and cell phone, in her car. On January 18, 2008, he was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in state prison.

Kenneth Richmond, of South Philadelphia, was sentenced on January 25, 2008, to 15 to 30 years in state prison to be followed by 10 years probation after a jury convicted him of a gun/knifepoint home invasion. During the incident, Richmond and his codefendant tied up and covered the heads of both victims. Richmond has a 1994 murder conviction.

Tyrone Spellman brutally beat and battered to death his 17 month old daughter after the little girl knocked his X-Box game to the ground. The jury convicted him of third degree murder on January 29, 2008. Defendant is to be sentenced on March 13, 2008.

James Bacon was sentenced to 15-30 years incarceration on January 29, 2008 for shooting at (and fortunately, not hitting) Philadelphia Police Officer Jose Perez on May 7, 2006, in the area of 26th Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue. Bacon was found guilty by a jury of attempted murder and possessing an instrument of crime.

Jose Carvalho was convicted on February 4, 2008, of indecently assaulting a 41 year old female tenant in the laundry room of an apartment building in Northeast Philadelphia. The defendant prevented the victim from leaving the laundry room in order to assault her. Defendant was sentenced to 24 months reporting probation.

Nelson Hughes, of South Philadelphia, was sentenced to 8 1/2 to 17 years in state prison on February 4, 2008 after pleading guilty to two residential burglaries and one commercial burglary in Center City. One of the victims was at home sleeping when Hughes broke into her home and took her purse. This is the defendant's ninth adult conviction. He is currently awaiting sentencing on a Montgomery County parole violation.

Troy H. Brown, 38, of Fishtown, was sentenced on February 8, 2008 to 45-90 years incarceration after a jury convicted him of nine robberies. Brown terrorized 12 college-aged females by robbing them at point of screwdriver in and around University City in November of 2006. He stole cash, cell phones and i-pods from the victims by shoving a screwdriver in their faces. Brown, a career criminal, has been arrested 40 times as an adult and has 20 convictions.

Looking for a Few Good First-Year Law & Undergraduate Students

The District Attorney's Office seeks first-year law school and undergraduate students for our exciting summer internship programs. Students gain exposure to criminal case prosecution and are given responsibility, meaningful work, and a chance to leave their mark as members of our summer workforce. The application deadline for first-year students is March 1, 2008; please click [here](#) for additional information. Undergrads can find more information [here](#) and must apply by April 1, 2008.

Urban Genesis Honors Philadelphians with Community Spirit

Urban Genesis recently [announced](#) the winners of the 5th Annual "Urban Genesis Community Spirit Awards" – [honoring](#) three ordinary Philadelphians for doing extraordinary things. Arlene Freeman received the *Wrice-Campbell Award for Neighborhood Safety* for her countless hours confronting neighborhood problems. *The James Mills Award for Positive Youth Development* was given to Veronica Norris for her work as a youth mentor and community activist. And Mastery Charter High School graduate Leticia J. Walston received *The Officer Tony Johnson Award for Educational Advancement* for demonstrated commitment to leadership, community service, and helping meet the needs of others. The Community Spirit Awards are made possible through [Urban Genesis Inc.](#), 501(c) 3, the non-profit charitable foundation started by the District Attorney in 1992.

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