



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

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D.C. Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Conspiring to Violate Campaign Laws and to Obstruct Justice

This month, Eugenia Harris, the owner of two businesses in D.C., pled guilty to conspiring to disguise the source of campaign contributions in federal and local elections, including the 2010 D.C. mayoral campaign. Harris, 75, admitted to filing an amended tax return in Dec. 2011 as part of an effort to conceal her businesses' involvement in funding hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign-related expenditures for the 2010 mayoral campaign. She also admitted to causing others to destroy a large volume of records from her businesses because they could have revealed the extent of her involvement in the mayoral election. A federal conspiracy charge carries up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. A false statement charge carries up to three years and a fine of up to \$250,000. A D.C. conspiracy charge carries up to six months and a fine of up to \$5,000. Harris has agreed to the applicable range of 30 to 37 months in prison and a fine between \$6,000 and \$60,000 and will make restitution to the IRS for taxes, interest and penalties owed. Her sentencing has not yet been scheduled. [Read more about this fraud scheme.](#)

Fugitive from D.C. Area Wanted

WFO announced this month Faical Ben Abdallah Chebbi as a wanted fugitive. Chebbi, a former resident of Prince George's County, Md., is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Tunisia and is wanted for international parental kidnapping. Following divorce proceedings in 2011, Chebbi illegally removed his two children, Zainab, 3, and Eslam, 6, from the U.S. and took them to Tunisia. Following WFO's media campaign announcing Chebbi's fugitive status, it was reported that he contacted a local news affiliate and stated that he did not intend to return to the U.S. The FBI investigates violations of the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act (IPKCA) of 1993 which states that a criminal arrest warrant can be issued for a parent who takes a juvenile under 16 outside of the U.S. without the other custodial parent's permission. The FBI is working this case, as well as other cases of IPK, in partnership with international authorities through the U.S. Department of State, Interpol and FBI Legal Attaché offices. [Listen to an interview with the case agent.](#)



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Did you know that the WFO uses Twitter to update our followers on breaking news? Following in the footsteps of the FBI's National Press Office (@FBIPressOffice), our goal is to remain connected to those who use social media as a primary source for news. Earlier this month, WFO was represented at the National Capitol Region Social Media in Emergencies Summit (#NCRsmem). This event was hosted for those in the fields of emergency management, public safety, health and transportation and discussed the use of social media to better communicate with the public, especially during times of emergency. [Follow the FBI's Facebook and YouTube pages.](#)

Mortgage Fraud Scheme Lands Ashburn Realtor in Prison for Seven Years

Nadin Samnang, 29, of Ashburn, Va., was sentenced earlier this month to seven years in prison for orchestrating a mortgage fraud scheme that involved more than 25 homes in NOVA and over \$7 million in losses to lenders. From 2006 to 2008, Samnang used his position as a realtor in Fairfax, Va., and the owner of a D.C.-based title company to engage in a scheme to defraud mortgage lenders and profit from loan proceeds, commissions, and bonus payments. Samnang recruited unqualified buyers — usually individuals with good credit but insufficient assets or income to qualify for a loan — and used them as nominal purchasers in residential real estate transactions. Samnang falsified mortgage loan applications, created fake documents to support the applications, and added the unqualified buyers as signatories on their bank accounts to make it appear as though the buyers possessed sufficient assets to qualify for the loans. WFO's investigation with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service found that Samnang would profit by flipping properties owned by him and his family members to unqualified buyers. When Samnang's promise of flipping the properties to other purchasers failed, and when the kickbacks given to the buyers to fund mortgage payments were exhausted, the unqualified buyers were forced into foreclosure.

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