

State v. Damian L. Washington

On November 10, 2005, Damian L. Washington was charged with selling a counterfeit Allstate motor vehicle insurance card. Allegedly, he was in possession of over 100 blank counterfeit insurance cards at the time of his arrest.

Warren County Prosecutor's Office

State v. Georgeann Pludowski

On June 15, 2005, Georgeann Pludowski was indicted and charged with theft by failure to make required disposition of property received. Pludowski allegedly illegally converted the proceeds of an estate, which included a \$30,000 life insurance benefit, for her personal use. Trial is pending.

State v. Benjamin R. Noyes

On July 1, 2005, Benjamin R. Noyes was sentenced to seven years state prison and ordered to pay \$980 in fines and restitution after pleading guilty to an accusation charging him with aggravated arson and criminal mischief. Noyes admitted to setting a fire which destroyed a partially constructed single family home, in addition to causing heat damage to two other structures and seven motor vehicles, with the intention of having Selective Insurance Company pay a \$100,000 construction insurance policy to the builder, thus relieving Noyes of an anticipated mortgage responsibility upon completion of the single family home.

State v. Carl Prata

Carl Prata entered into a settlement agreement on December 22, 2005, admitting to 57 violations of the Fraud Act and agreeing to pay \$204,000 in civil insurance fraud penalties. Prata, while employed by Allmerica Insurance Company and St. Paul Insurance Company, issued 57 fraudulent benefits checks to 45 co-conspirators. The face amount of the checks totaled \$570,000. Prata was convicted of criminal charges by way of a plea agreement. He was sentenced to five years state prison and ordered to pay \$50,000 in restitution. Restitution will be paid prior to the payment of the Fraud Act penalty. Forty-two other co-defendants of Prata were prosecuted and entered plea agreements or were admitted into the Pre-trial Intervention (PTI) Program. Each of those defendants agreed to pay restitution and signed Consent Orders for civil penalties ranging from \$2,500 to \$22,500.

State v. Richard D. Collins

In May 2005, Richard D. Collins, D.C., entered into a Consent Order with the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor. Collins agreed to pay a \$1,500 penalty for the New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act (the Fraud Act) violation of billing for services not rendered in 1996.

State v. Faith Penalver and Stephen Penalver

Faith Sherak Penalver, a/k/a Faith Sherak, submitted a claim in the amount of \$158,417 to First Trenton Indemnity Insurance Company in connection with a fire at her residence in Roosevelt, NJ. She and her son, Stephen I. Penalver, a/k/a Stephen I. Sherak, made numerous oral and written false statements to police and First Trenton investigators concerning the cause of the fire and the property claimed to have been lost as a result. On January 21, 2005, default judgments including penalty, attorney fees, and costs, were obtained against Faith Penalver for \$106,437 and against Stephen Penalver for \$76,437.

State v. Robert Fraser

On May 10, 2005, after a three-day trial, Robert Fraser, a licensed real estate agent, was found to have committed four violations of the Fraud Act. The Superior Court awarded a civil penalty of \$9,500 and \$6,510 in attorney fees. The civil

penalty was assessed against Fraser for submitting multiple false statements in support of a false claim for damage to a motor vehicle. Fraser had been driving on the beach when his vehicle became stuck in the sand. He called a friend to tow him out but the friend's vehicle became mired as well. After both vehicles were damaged by the incoming surf, Fraser purchased his friend's vehicle but represented to the insurance carrier that the vehicle was undamaged when he bought and insured it. Fraser was prosecuted criminally as well and was convicted of all charges.

State v. Fredric Palmieri

Fredric Palmieri, a licensee of the Board of Accountancy, the Bureau of Securities, and the Department of Banking and Insurance admitted a violation of the Fraud Act for staging the theft of his 1997 Jaguar. He entered into a stipulation of settlement on May 19, 2005, and agreed to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and \$1,000 in attorney fees. Palmieri of Medford, NJ, owned a 1997 Jaguar that was insured against damage or loss due to theft by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. On November 20, 2001, Palmieri reported to the Philadelphia Police Department that his Jaguar had been stolen that afternoon. He also reported the theft to Liberty Mutual. On November 17, 2001, Palmieri's vehicle was recovered by the Gloucester Township Police Department burning in a sandpit. Prior to the vehicle being set on fire, all four doors, both front fenders, the hood, and the trunk had been removed.

State v. Richard Serbin

Richard Serbin executed a \$50,000 Consent Order on December 16, 2005. Serbin provided false information to Reassure America Life Insurance Company in pursuit of a claim for disability benefits. Serbin pled guilty to falsifying records in a criminal case prosecuted by OIFP.