



State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
Office of State Inspector General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Baker City Court Probation Officer
Convicted of Public Bribery

Baton Rouge – Louisiana State Inspector General Stephen Street announced today that, after a joint criminal investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Louisiana State Inspector General, a state criminal jury has convicted **PERON MCCAUSTLE**, 56, of Public Bribery, a felony punishable by up to 5 years in prison. On July 31, a 19th Judicial District Court jury returned a unanimous guilty verdict after evidence was presented by prosecutors from the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney’s office. **MCCAUSTLE** is scheduled to be sentenced on November 15, 2018.

The investigation revealed that **MCCAUSTLE**, the former City Court Probation Officer for the City of Baker, accepted a cash payment from a city employee in exchange for ensuring that the employee’s mandatory drug test resulted in a negative finding for banned substances. As the City Court Probation Officer, it was **MCCAUSTLE**’s responsibility to administer such tests.

After administering the employee’s mandatory test, **MCCAUSTLE** reported to the employee and his supervisor that the results were negative. However, as the employee was leaving **MCCAUSTLE**’s office, **MCCAUSTLE** told the employee that he had actually tested positive for drugs, and that **MCCAUSTLE** had done him a favor by reporting the test as negative to the Public Works supervisor. **MCCAUSTLE** then informed the employee that he would need to make a cash payment to **MCCAUSTLE** in order to complete the necessary paperwork for the test. The employee later made the cash bribe payment to **MCCAUSTLE** in a meeting recorded on both audio and video.

Louisiana Inspector General Stephen Street commented: “Our criminal justice system absolutely depends upon the uncompromising integrity of those entrusted by the public to run it. Mr. McCastle, a probation officer, violated that trust for personal gain and, in the process, harmed public confidence in the system. That can never be tolerated, and it is not surprising that the jury agreed.”

Eric J. Rommal, FBI New Orleans Special Agent in Charge stated: “Clearly, the jury in the McCastle case spoke loud and clear. They, like countless residents across the state who are sick

and tired of Louisiana corruption, have taken a stand. Together we must all take a strong stance and make it known that corruption at any level of government will not be tolerated. The FBI New Orleans Field Office stands with our federal, state, and local prosecutors and agencies to say, enough is enough and we stand united to protect Louisiana residents.”

East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Hillar Moore said: “Public Corruption has no place in our community. Peron McCastle used his position of power to benefit himself. This verdict was important in maintaining trust between our community and the people who represent them.”

This matter was prosecuted by Larry McAlpine and Frank Breaux of the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney’s office.
