

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



STEPHEN B. STREET, JR.
STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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

October 30, 2009

**Inspector General Partners With FBI And Other Law Enforcement In
Newly Formed Public Corruption Working Group – United States
Attorney Announces Guilty Pleas in Operation “Illegal Motion”**

BATON ROUGE – Today, the FBI announced the formation of a Public Corruption Working Group that includes the United States Attorney, Louisiana State Inspector General, Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Homeland Security Office Of Inspector General.

David Dugas, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana and Howard Schwartz, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Division of the FBI, made the announcement in conjunction with guilty pleas entered today in Operation “Illegal Motion” a public corruption investigation conducted by the Working Group. FLITCHER R. BELL, age 43, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and DARRELL JOHNSON, age 48, of Bueche, Louisiana, were charged in Bills of Information alleging that each accepted bribes in exchange for “fixing” criminal matters filed and pending in Baton Rouge City Court. JOHNSON and BELL were arraigned today before U. S. District Court Judge James Brady and pled guilty to the charges contained in the Bills of Information filed against them.

Assistant Special Agent in Charge Schwartz stated, “New Orleans usually gets all the attention relating to public corruption. As these guilty pleas today clearly demonstrate, public corruption is by no means limited to the city of New Orleans. The FBI, along with our

Federal, State, and Local partners, each represented here today, are focusing our attention on public corruption matters in the Baton Rouge area.”

State Inspector General Stephen Street said that participating in the Public Corruption Working Group is consistent with the new statutory mission and law enforcement powers of the Inspector General. “It’s a natural fit, and we look forward to many more successful investigations. Public Corruption hits the people where it hurts the most – by undermining their confidence in government. We were brought here and given the tools and authority to focus on this sort of corruption, and that’s what we will continue to do.”

The investigation in Operation “Illegal Motion” is ongoing.

###