



United States Department of Justice

***United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana***

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United States Attorney*

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January 6, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I have reviewed the questionnaire submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 20, 2019, in connection with my nomination to the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. Incorporating the additional information listed below, I certify that the information contained in these documents is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

Question 12(d)

December 3, 2019: Presenter, Louisiana InfraGard Meeting, Calcasieu Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP).

I gave a presentation to a private industry security group on the rising counterintelligence threat posed to Louisiana industries by China. The PowerPoint presentation used in connection with these remarks is law enforcement sensitive. The address of the Calcasieu Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is 901 Lakeshore Dr., Ste. 200, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Question 12(e)

KTAL-TV Remarks, December 20, 2019.

Excerpted remarks are available at: <https://www.arklatexhomepage.com/top-stories/two-more-counts-added-to-the-26-counts-caddo-commissioner-already-faces/>

Press Release, *Man Who Was Arrested in Connection with the Murder of Shreveport Police Officer Chateri' Payne Sentenced to 12+ Years in Federal Prison for Firearms and Drug Charges*, December 13, 2019. Link supplied.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/man-who-was-arrested-connection-murder-shreveport-police-officer-chateri-payne>

Press Release, *Justice Department Announces More Than \$376 Million in Awards to Promote Public Safety*, December 9, 2019. Copy and link supplied.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/justice-department-announces-more-376-million-awards-promote-public-safety>

Press Release, *Owner of a Shreveport Medical Laboratory Service Admits Filing False Tax Returns*, December 3, 2019. Copy and link supplied.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/owner-shreveport-medical-laboratory-service-admits-filing-false-tax-returns>

Press Conference, Announcing launch of Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force, United States Attorney's Office, Shreveport, Louisiana, November 5, 2019. Copy of remarks, press release, news articles, and links supplied.

<https://www.arklatexhomepage.com/news/crime/new-human-trafficking-task-force-created-for-shreveport/>

<https://www.ksla.com/2019/11/05/agencies-launch-task-force-crackdown-human-trafficking/>

<https://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/news/2019/11/05/northwest-louisiana-human-trafficking-task-force-announced/4166666002/>

<https://www.shreveporttimes.com/videos/news/2019/11/05/u-s-attorney-david-joseph-releases-psa-human-trafficking/4167354002/>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/us-attorney-david-c-joseph-announces-launch-northwest-louisiana-human-trafficking-tas-0>

Press Release, *Shreveport Man Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for Fraudulent Check Cashing Scheme Resulting in Theft of Nearly \$400,000*, October 30, 2019. Copy and link supplied.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/shreveport-man-sentenced-20-years-prison-fraudulent-check-cashing-scheme-resulting>

Please note that I am also forwarding an updated net worth statement and financial disclosure report. I thank the Committee for its consideration of my nomination.

Respectfully,



DAVID C. JOSEPH
United States Attorney
Western District of Louisiana



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
WESTERN DISTRICT *of* LOUISIANA

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Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 13, 2019

Man Who Was Arrested in Connection With the Murder of Shreveport Police Officer Chateri' Payne Sentenced to 12+ Years in Federal Prison for Firearms and Drug Charges

SHREVEPORT, La. – United States Attorney David C. Joseph announced that Glenn Frierson, 39, of Shreveport, was sentenced this morning by Chief U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks Jr., to 151 months in prison for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Local authorities arrested Frierson on January 15, 2019, in connection with the death of Shreveport Police Officer Chateri' Payne.

According to filed court documents and today's sentencing hearing, Frierson's federal charges are the result of an investigation by the Shreveport Police Department after learning that narcotic transactions were occurring at Frierson's place of business. After several controlled buys were made with undercover law enforcement, officers with the Shreveport Police Department executed a state search warrant at his place of business on May 3, 2018. As officers entered the business, Frierson placed a Smith & Wesson, Model SD40, .40-caliber pistol, loaded with 12 rounds of ammunition, on the floor of the bathroom next to his barber stall. Further investigation revealed that Frierson owned the pistol and carried it for protection when selling illegal drugs. During the search warrant, officers discovered 28 grams of methamphetamine inside his backpack and inside a false beverage container, along with a scale to weigh drugs. Frierson pleaded guilty to the federal charges on August 16, 2019.

"This case demonstrates the dangers presented by armed drug dealers in Shreveport and throughout the Western District of Louisiana," said U.S. Attorney Joseph. "We will continue to make every effort at the federal level to eliminate this senseless violence and support our men and women in law enforcement."

Glenn Frierson was a convicted felon at the time he possessed the pistol. He pleaded guilty on May 4, 2009, to possession with intent to distribute cocaine. It is a violation of federal law for a person previously convicted of a felony offense to possess firearms or ammunition.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Shreveport Police Department investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Cadesby B. Cooper and Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison D. Bushnell prosecuted the case.

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Topic(s):

Drug Trafficking
Firearms Offenses

Component(s):

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
USAO - Louisiana, Western

Updated December 13, 2019



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WESTERN DISTRICT *of* LOUISIANA

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Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 9, 2019

Justice Department Announces More Than \$376 Million in Awards to Promote Public Safety

\$1,024,834 Will Support Crime-Fighting Efforts in the Western District of Louisiana

SHREVEPORT/LAFAYETTE/ALEXANDRIA/LAKE CHARLES/MONROE - United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana David C. Joseph announced that the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs has awarded more than \$376 million in grant funding to enhance state, local and tribal law enforcement operations and reinforce public safety efforts in jurisdictions across the United States. The awards include \$1,024,834 million to support public safety activities in the Western District of Louisiana.

"These public safety grants will give our local, state, and community partners additional resources to assist them in the fight against violent crime," said U.S. Attorney Joseph. "I want to thank the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program, for making these grants available to organizations within the Western District of Louisiana. Working together with our law enforcement and community partners, we are making Louisiana safer for its citizens."

"Crime and violence hold families, friends and neighborhoods hostage, and they rip communities apart," said OJP Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan. "These programs help restore the health and safety of crime-ravaged communities by supporting prevention activities, aiding in the apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators, facilitating appropriate sentencing and adjudication, and providing communities and their residents the means for recovery and healing."

The awards announced support an array of crime-fighting initiatives, including the quarter-billion dollar Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program, which funds public safety efforts in 929 state, local and tribal jurisdictions. Funding also supports sex offender registration and notification, law enforcement-based victim services, the testing of sexual assault kits, and

programs designed to address youth with sexual behavioral problems. Other awards will focus on wrongful convictions, intellectual property enforcement, innovative prosecution strategies and the safety and effectiveness of corrections systems.

The following awards were made to organizations in the Western District of Louisiana:

BJA Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program – Local Awards

- City of Shreveport - \$127,686
- City of Bossier City – \$39,115
- City of Lake Charles - \$44,309
- City of Opelousas - \$17,834
- City of Natchitoches - \$15,632
- Ouachita Parish - \$127,351
- Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office - \$72,222
- Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office - \$82,155
- Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office - \$36,553
- St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office - \$13,477

OVC Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program

- Lafayette City Parish Consolidated Government - \$448,500

BJA Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program – State Awards

- Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement - \$3,169,999

Information about the programs and awards announced December 4, 2019, is available here: [Public Safety Fact Sheet](#). For more information about OJP awards, visit the [OJP Awards Data webpage](#).

The Office of Justice Programs, directed by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan, provides federal leadership, grants, training and technical assistance, and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana is one of 94 offices that serve as the nation's principal litigators under the direction of the Attorney General. For more information about the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Louisiana, visit <http://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla>.

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Component(s):

USAO - Louisiana, Western

Updated December 9, 2019



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Western District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Owner of a Shreveport Medical Laboratory Service Admits Filing False Tax Returns

Tax loss exceeds \$1.9 million

SHREVEPORT, La. – Robert C. Poimboeuf, a Shreveport business owner, pleaded guilty today in federal court, to filing false tax returns, announced David C. Joseph, the United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, and Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard E. Zuckerman of the Justice Department's Tax Division.

According to documents and information provided to the court, Robert C. Poimboeuf, 57, along with his wife, owned and operated D&G Holdings, LLC, (D&G) a local medical business operating as Doctors Lab, that provided laboratory and phlebotomy services. From 2011 through 2015, Poimboeuf filed false tax returns that underreported gross receipts earned from D&G. In particular, Poimboeuf provided false and misleading information to his tax return preparers – hiding income, failing to disclose bank accounts and falsely characterizing business receipts as non-taxable loans.

D&G maintained an operating account and two accounts that received revenue – one for electronic payments and the other for physical deposits of checks. For 2011 through 2014, Poimboeuf concealed the nature of deposits into D&G's operating bank account by falsely reporting to his accountant that the deposits were transfers from a billing service. Although D&G used a billing service, these deposits were not transfers from the billing service, but from D&G's revenue accounts that Poimboeuf did not disclose to his accountant.

The Poimboeufs hired a different accountant to prepare their 2015 tax return and provided information for the electronic deposit account in addition to the operating account, but continued to withhold information about the physical deposits account. When the accountant asked for additional information concerning a loan, Poimboeuf provided a document to support the deposit for the loan, when in fact it was actually a transfer from the undisclosed physical deposits

account. In addition, Poimboeuf did not provide numerous Forms 1099 reflecting earnings for D&G.

Poimboeuf underreported earnings for D&G in order to understate taxes due for 2011 through 2015. As a result of Poimboeuf's conduct, the filing of false federal income tax returns for the years 2011 through 2015 caused a tax loss of more than \$1.9 million to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

"Mr. Poimboeuf cheated on his taxes in order to lower his tax bill. In doing so, he committed a crime and failed in a duty we all owe as American citizens," said U.S. Attorney Joseph. "He now awaits sentencing for this crime."

Sentencing is set for April 21, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., before Chief U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks Jr. in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr. Poimboeuf faces a statutory maximum sentence of six years in prison, as well as a period of supervised release and monetary penalties. Mr. Poimboeuf has agreed to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$1,904,477.

Special agents with the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division conducted the investigation. First Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook and Trial Attorney Kevin Schneider of the Tax Division, are prosecuting the case.

###

Topic(s):

Financial Fraud

Tax

Component(s):

USAO - Louisiana, Western

Updated December 3, 2019

Comments – Press Conf. – Launch of NWLA Human Trafficking Task Force
November 5, 2019
USAO – Shreveport, LA

- I. Good morning, We are here today to announce the launch of a new endeavor, the first of its kind in the State of Louisiana, bringing together local, state, and federal law enforcement, with non-profits and service providers, to form a new task force in Northwest Louisiana with the goal of preventing human trafficking, rescuing victims of human trafficking, and prosecuting human traffickers criminally. We call this endeavor the Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force.
- II. The crime of human trafficking amounts to modern-day slavery and involves horrible deprivations of individual rights, freedom, and human dignity.
- III. Human trafficking has many faces. Often when we think of Human Trafficking, we may picture images of young women and girls, perhaps resembling migrants from faraway lands, appearing abused and afraid, marketed as sexualized commodities. And indeed this type of Human Trafficking is a sad reality.
- IV. But because trafficking is a crime of exploitation, it doesn't require smuggling, transportation, or movement of any kind, which means that victims can be exploited locally within their own communities. They don't even have to be brought across state lines, much less smuggled over international borders. Here in Northwest Louisiana we see sex trafficking of both minors and adults on street corners and at truck stops, massage parlors, casinos, and cantinas.
- V. Victims are often subjected to brutal violence, and many are controlled by their traffickers through coercion, debts, threats of deportation, or through addiction to drugs—**invisible chains** that can be extremely hard to detect.
- VI. In addition to sex trafficking, traffickers exploit their victims for forced labor in a wide range of legitimate industries: hospitality, health care, agriculture, domestic service, nail salons, and sales crews.
- VII. Make no mistake – we have been successfully prosecuting these cases here in Northwest Louisiana – in recent weeks, a human trafficker who lured a 14 year old girl from her home in Texas to Shreveport and forced her into prostitution at local motel was sentence to spend the next 50 years in federal prison.
- VIII. However, because there are so many forms of Human Trafficking, partnerships are critically important in our fight to eradicate all forms of human trafficking. To detect the subtle signs of human trafficking, we must rely on the community—faith-based organizations, health care providers, first responders, and code inspectors—to be our eyes and ears.
- IX. And to earn the trust of traumatized survivors – who are often too afraid to come forward – we work with non-governmental organizations with expertise in victim-centered, trauma-informed strategies for stabilizing victims, earning their trust, and confiding in authorities.

**Comments – Press Conf. – Launch of NWLA Human Trafficking Task Force
November 5, 2019
USAO – Shreveport, LA**

- X. With us here today are many of these heroes of the fight against human trafficking. We have representatives from:
- a. Purchased: Not for Sale,
 - b. Caddo Parish Juvenile Services
 - c. The Center for Children and Families
 - d. Department of Children & Family Services,
 - e. The FREE Coalition,
 - f. The Gingerbread House,
 - g. The Hub,
 - h. Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice,
 - i. United Way of Northwest Louisiana, and
 - j. Volunteers for Youth Justice CASA Program
- XI. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE AND FOR THE SELFLESS AND IMPORTANT WORK YOU DO EVERY DAY
- XII. The concept for this task force began about 6 months ago when Sheriff Whittington and I sat down together and made a decision that we needed to better implement a “whole community” approach to human trafficking, since it is unlike any other crime that we investigate and prosecute.
- XIII. Since then, we have talked to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors all around the country to determine how the most successful task forces operate. What we have begun here today and will develop in the coming months and years represent the best practices from around the country. We are especially grateful for the assistance provided by our colleagues in the Houston Human Trafficking task force for their insight and expertise.
- XIV. After developing a plan, we then started asking building partnerships with our colleagues in the law enforcement community. We were overwhelmed with the positive response we received from every law enforcement agency that you see standing here with us today, as well as DAs James Stewart and Skylar Marvin who are teaming with my office in prosecuting these cases.
- a. Look - **Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity**, a literal modern day form of slavery and oppression against our fellow men, women, and children
 - b. Fighting this scourge of evil is personal for me, and it is a priority of my office and the Dept. of Justice
 - c. Through this effort we will:
 - i. Give Hope to the hopeless
 - ii. Be a Voice to the voiceless
 - iii. Be a beacon of light in the darkness of this world
 - d. **We can do these things by working together.**



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Western District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

U.S. Attorney David C. Joseph Announces Launch of Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force

Joined by Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies and Several Victim Services Organizations

SHREVEPORT, La. – United States Attorney David C. Joseph announced today the creation and launch of the Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force, which held its first meeting this morning. The task force, formulated and led by the United States Attorney's Office and Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, is a collaboration of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, along with local non-governmental victim services organizations, including civic, faith-based, and social services organizations.

Members of the task force will work collectively to identify, investigate and prosecute criminals using a victim-centered approach, provide victims/survivors with assistance, offer training to law enforcement and service providers, and increase public awareness about human trafficking throughout northwest Louisiana. The task force will be led by the U.S. Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Coordinator, Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl M. Campbell, and will meet monthly to share information, coordinate investigations, and discuss potential matters and active cases in preparation of prosecution.

The Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force consists of representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and its Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Marshal's Service, U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control, Louisiana State Police, Bossier/Webster Parish District Attorney's Office, Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office, Webster Parish Sheriff's Office, Bossier City Marshal's Office, Bossier City Police Department, and Shreveport Police Department.

Additionally, the task force will work in collaboration with numerous non-governmental victim advocate organizations, such as Purchased: Not for Sale, Caddo Parish Juvenile Services, The Center for Children and Families, Department of Children & Family Services, FREE Coalition, Gingerbread House – Bossier, The Hub, Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, United Way of Northwest Louisiana, and Volunteers for Youth Justice CASA Program. Task force meetings tailored for the non-governmental organizations will be hosted quarterly by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Human trafficking is a crime that involves the systematic abuse of individual rights, freedom, and human dignity," said U.S. Attorney David C. Joseph. "This task force will coordinate multiple entities and agencies, and help our citizens effectively battle this evil in northwest Louisiana. I want to thank our partners in this effort who have committed their resources to protect victims, prevent human trafficking, and apprehend and prosecute traffickers who exploit their victims for financial gain."

"While we live in a good community, we know that this does go on. Most of these victims have no hope or means to get out of these situations," said Louisiana Sheriff's Association President, Bossier Parish Sheriff Julian Whittington. "Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office is proud to be a part of the federal, state and local efforts to combat human trafficking."

"Investigating human trafficking is a national priority of the FBI and we continue to take a proactive approach to identify human traffickers involved with the exploitation of adults and children alike," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Bryan Vorndran. "Through this effort we are committed to providing victims the resources they need to improve their situation and continue to bring human traffickers to justice."

To report suspected human trafficking or to obtain resources for victims, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888, text "BeFree" (233733), or live chat at [HumanTraffickingHotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org). The toll free phone number, SMS text lines, and online chat function are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Help is available in English and Spanish, or in more than 200 additional languages. The National Hotline is not managed by law enforcement, immigration or an investigative agency. Correspondence with the National Hotline is confidential and you may request assistance or report a tip anonymously.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline connects victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking with services and support. The National Hotline also receives tips about potential situations of sex and labor trafficking, and will facilitate sharing that information with the Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force. Through information received by the National Hotline, law enforcement authorities can connect investigations that span jurisdictions across the country.

To learn more about the National Resource Hotline, visit: www.humantraffickinghotline.org. To learn more about the U.S. Department of Justice's efforts to combat human trafficking visit: www.justice.gov/humantrafficking.

For more information about the Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force, please contact AUSA Earl Campbell or Victim Coordinator Vicki Chance at 318-676-3600.

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Topic(s):

Human Trafficking

Violent Crime

Component(s):

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

USAO - Louisiana, Western

U.S. Marshals Service

Updated November 5, 2019

November 5, 2019

Press Conference, announcing launch of Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force, United States Attorney's Office, Shreveport, Louisiana, November 5, 2019. Copy of remarks, press release, news articles, and links supplied.

KTAL News 6

<https://www.arklatexhomepage.com/community/new-human-trafficking-task-force-created-for-shreveport/>



New human trafficking task force created for Shreveport

by: Zyneria Byrd

Posted: Nov 5, 2019 / 06:05 PM CST / Updated: Nov 5, 2019 / 06:05 PM CST

The United States attorney is working to stop human trafficking in Shreveport.

U.S. Attorney David Joseph has launched the Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force.

The task force includes local, state, and federal agencies and nonprofits.

The goal is to bring awareness to human trafficking, train officers, identify and investigate human trafficking cases.

“People are becoming more interconnected, and so human traffickers are finding new ways to traffick their victims. Every day we have to make sure we are staying in front of it. So information sharing where it has been important it’s becoming more and more important,” said David C. Joseph, U.S. Attorney.

To report suspected human trafficking or looking for resources for victims.

Call the human trafficking hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text “BEFREE” to 233733

KSLA News 12

<https://www.ksla.com/2019/11/05/agencies-launch-task-force-crackdown-human-trafficking/>

CrimeTracker

Agencies launch task force to crack down on human trafficking



The Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force was launched Tuesday morning, made up of various agencies. (Source: Christian Piekos)

By [Christian Piekos](#) | November 5, 2019 at 4:35 PM CST - Updated November 5 at 7:00 PM

SHREVEPORT, La. (KSLA) — Federal, state and local agencies gathered Tuesday at the federal courthouse in downtown Shreveport to launch an initiative to crack down on human trafficking.

Led by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, the task force will work to identify, investigate and prosecute criminals.

The task force is also made up of non-governmental agencies, including civic, faith-based and social services.

"I think we have a lot of people from out of town coming here primarily because of the gaming industry and the entertainment options that are available," said David Joseph, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Louisiana. "It's also a major corridor with (I-)49 and I-20 coming through here."

Federal, state and local agencies gather in downtown Shreveport to launch the Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force, the first of its kind. @KSLA
pic.twitter.com/rne5bpPPMG — Christian Piekos (@ChristianPiekos) November 5, 2019

The FBI, Louisiana State Police, Shreveport Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, among others, are involved in the task force.

"Human trafficking is a crime that involved systematic abuse of individual rights, freedom and human dignity," said Joseph. "While we live in a good community, we know this does go on."

The task force will meet monthly to share information, coordinate investigations and discuss active cases.

Shreveport Times

<https://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/news/2019/11/05/northwest-louisiana-human-trafficking-task-force-announced/4166666002/>

U.S. Attorney David Joseph announces a new task force that focuses on human trafficking

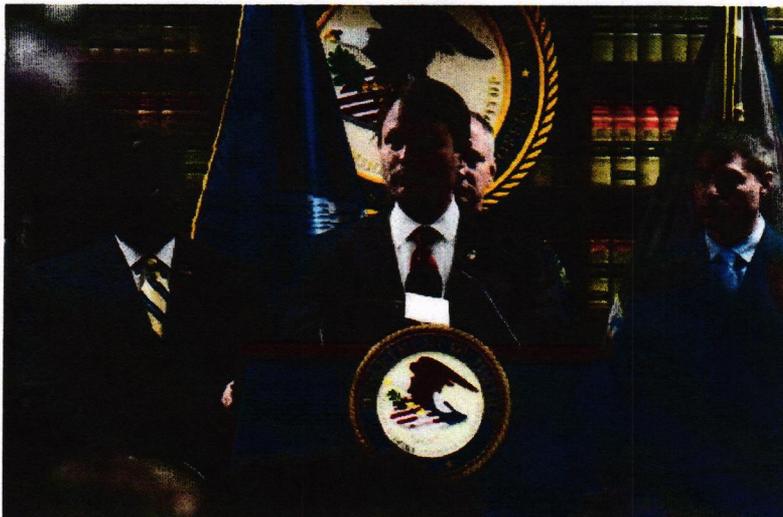
[Emily Enfinger](#), Shreveport Times Published 4:52 p.m. CT Nov. 5, 2019 | Updated 5:06 p.m. CT Nov. 5, 2019

A new task force was recently created to focus on the issue of human trafficking in northwest Louisiana.

The development of the Northwest Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force was announced Tuesday morning during a news conference at the U.S. Attorney's Office at Tom Stagg U.S. Courthouse in downtown Shreveport.

"Human trafficking is a crime that involves the systematic abuse of individual rights, freedom and human dignity," U.S. Attorney David Joseph said.

"This task force will coordinate multiple entities and agencies, and help our citizens effectively battle this evil in northwest Louisiana."



U.S. Attorney David Joseph speaks Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, during a news conference in the U.S. Attorney's Office at the Tom Stagg U.S. Courthouse located in downtown Shreveport. (Photo: Emily Enfinger / The Times)

The task force is a collaboration among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and local non-governmental victim services, including civic, faith-based and social service organizations.

Members will be using a victim-centered approach to provide survivors and victims with assistance, to offer training to law enforcement and service providers, and to increase public awareness about human trafficking throughout northwest Louisiana.

The task force had its first meeting Tuesday morning and members will continue to meet monthly to share information, coordinate investigations and discuss potential matters and active cases in preparation or prosecution.

"While we live in a good community, we know that this does go on. Most of these victims have no hope or means to get out of these situations," Bossier Sheriff Julian Wittington said.

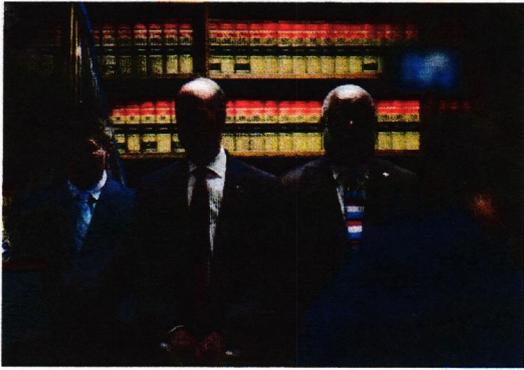


Bryan Vorndran, FBI special agent in charge of the New Orleans Division, speaks Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, during a news conference in the U.S. Attorney's Office at the Tom Stagg U.S. Courthouse located in downtown Shreveport. (Photo: Emily Enfinger / The Times)

Investigating human trafficking is a national priority for the Federal Bureau of Investigations, said FBI special agent in charge Bryan Vorndran.

"...We continue to take a proactive approach to identify human traffickers involved with the exploitation of adults and children alike," Vorndran said.

"Through this effort we are committed to providing victims the resources they need to improve their situation and continue to bring human traffickers to justice."



Bossier Sheriff Julian Whittington and Caddo Parish District Attorney James Stewart stand and listen on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, during a news conference in the U.S. Attorney's Office at the Tom Stagg U.S. Courthouse located in downtown Shreveport. (Photo: Emily Enfinger / The Times)

The National Human trafficking Hotline connects victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking with services and support, per a news release. The hotline also receives tips about potential sex and labor trafficking situations, and will facilitate sharing such information to the newly created task force.

Correspondence with the hotline is confidential. Individuals can request assistance or report tips anonymously.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline can be called at 1-888-373-7888. The hotline can also be reached by texting "BeFree" to 233733, or by using the live chat on [HumanTraffickingHotline.org](https://www.HumanTraffickingHotline.org).



Shreveport police chief Ben Raymond on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, during a news conference in the U.S. Attorney's Office at the Tom Stagg U.S. Courthouse located in downtown Shreveport. (Photo: Emily Enfinger / The Times)

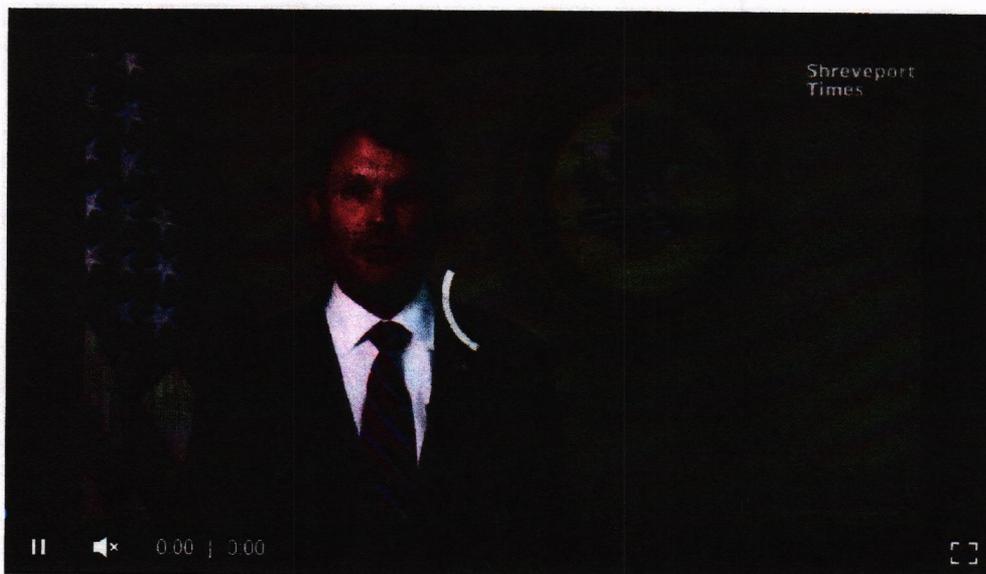
The task force consists of representatives of the following agencies and entities:

- U.S. Attorney's Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force
- Homeland Security Investigations
- U.S. Marshal's Service

- U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service
- U.S. Department of Labor
- Office of Inspector General
- Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry
- Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control
- Louisiana State Police
- Bossier/Webster Parish District Attorney's Office
- Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office
- Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office
- Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office
- DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office
- Webster Parish Sheriff's Office
- Bossier City Marshal's Office
- Bossier City Police Department
- Shreveport Police Department

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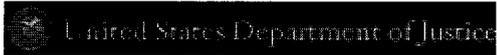
<https://www.shreveporttimes.com/videos/news/2019/11/05/u-s-attorney-david-joseph-releases-psa-human-trafficking/4167354002/>



U.S. Attorney David Joseph releases PSA on human trafficking

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Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

**Shreveport Man Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for
Fraudulent Check Cashing Scheme Resulting in Theft of
Nearly \$400,000**

SHREVEPORT, La. – U.S. Attorney David C. Joseph announced that Carlos A. Spann, 42, of Shreveport, Louisiana, was sentenced October 29, 2019, to 20 years in federal prison for his role in a fraudulent check-cashing scheme resulting in the theft of nearly \$400,000. Chief U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks Jr. also ordered Spann to pay \$399,723.04 in restitution to Tower Loan and Walmart Global Investigations. In addition to his term of imprisonment, Judge Hicks sentenced Spann to five years of supervised release following his release.

At the conclusion of a four-day trial, Carlos A. Spann was found guilty by a federal jury on February 7, 2019, of one count of conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud and two counts of wire fraud. Evidence admitted at trial showed that Carlos A. Spann, Phelix K. Williams, 29, Anthony E. Johnson, 24, both of Shreveport, and others, conspired to cash counterfeit checks using fraudulent identities at banks and retail establishments throughout Louisiana. Spann provided his co-conspirators with altered overlays for identification cards along with counterfeit checks drawn on Tower Loan's bank account, and counterfeit checks drawn on a United States Postal Service bank account. Each of them were captured by surveillance video cameras using altered identification cards to cash the counterfeit checks. During the conspiracy, they negotiated more than 100 counterfeit checks.

Spann has a two-decade long history of committing white collar fraud crimes, including nine prior convictions of offenses such as counterfeiting and credit card fraud. At sentencing, additional evidence was presented of Spann's attempts to obstruct justice by procuring affidavits containing false statements, tampering with lawfully issued subpoenas, and discussing trial testimony with prospective witnesses.

"This offender made a career out of defrauding the people and businesses of Louisiana out of their hard-earned money," said U.S. Attorney David C. Joseph. "The 20-year sentence handed down in this case should send a clear message to others that might consider engaging in this type of criminal activity. I want to thank the prosecutors from my office, the U.S. Secret Service, the Shreveport Police Department, and the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office for their hard work in uncovering this fraud and bringing this matter to justice."

"This case exemplifies how important partnerships between Federal and local law enforcement successfully bring criminals like Spann, Williams and Johnson to justice," said Tara McLeese, Resident Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service's Baton Rouge Office. "Special thanks to the talented prosecutors from the United States Attorney's Office in the Western District of Louisiana whose tireless efforts have ensured the public is now protected from financial fraud perpetrated by these individuals."

Williams pleaded guilty on February 4, 2019, the morning his trial was scheduled to begin, to one count of conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud, 13 counts of bank fraud and two counts of wire fraud. Judge Hicks sentenced Williams on June 10, 2019, to 10 years in prison, followed by five years of supervised, and also ordered him to pay \$399,723.04 in restitution. Johnson pleaded guilty on January 17, 2019, to one count of conspiracy and two counts of bank fraud. Johnson's sentencing date of May 1, 2019 was upset and has yet to be rescheduled.

The U.S. Secret Service, Shreveport Police Department, and Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany E. Fields and First Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook prosecuted the case.

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Topic(s):

Financial Fraud

Component(s):

USAO - Louisiana, Western

Updated October 30, 2019