



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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New York Lawyer Pleads Guilty Plea to Obstruction of Justice and Second Individual Agrees to Forfeit \$500,000 in Connection with Securities Fraud Investigation

Washington, D.C. - Robert Steven Brown, 45, an attorney licensed to practice law in New York, has pleaded guilty to a one count Information charging him with Obstruction of Justice, and a second individual, Jukka Tolonen, 43, has agreed to forfeit \$500,000 for his involvement in a related stock promotional campaign, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today.

Brown, of New Rochelle, New York, pleaded guilty today in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. Brown faces a statutory maximum term of ten years in prison on the charge, although his sentencing has not yet been scheduled. As part of the plea agreement, Brown agreed to forfeit \$275,000.

In connection with the guilty plea and as set forth in detail in the executed Statement of Offense, Brown acknowledged that from approximately 1995 through August 2009, he practiced law as a partner in a law firm in New York, New York. He admitted that from approximately January 2004 through January 2008, at the direction of another, Brown facilitated the formation of several limited liability companies ("LLCs") which resulted in the transmittal of over \$25 million in items of value from a publicly traded company for the primary benefit of three insiders of the company under false pretenses. According to the charges, those transactions were not disclosed and were misrepresented in the company's filings with the SEC.

In connection with the guilty plea, Brown admitted that when he discussed his involvement in the transactions with agents from the FBI on December 17, 2007 and January 16, 2008, he made false statements that were material to the criminal investigation. The guilty plea arose from a referral by the SEC in a related matter.

In addition, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips announced that another individual, Jukka Tolonen, has agreed to forfeit \$500,000.00 in connection with his involvement in the fraudulent promotional campaign related to one of the companies involved in fraud alleged in the case involving defendant Brown. Tolonen, of Sugar Land, Texas, has also agreed to cooperate in two separate, on-going investigations.

In announcing the guilty plea, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the investigative efforts of agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Postal Inspection Service. He also recognized the efforts of U.S. Attorney's Office Forensic Accountant Crystal Boodoo, Legal Assistant Jamasee Lucas and Paralegal Specialist Sarah Reis, and commended the efforts of Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Keshia West and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Vasu B. Muthyala, Glenn Leon, Matthew Solomon, and Michael K. Atkinson, who are prosecuting the cases.

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