UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
District of Oregon

PRESS ROOM

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VANCOUVER RESIDENT SENTENCED IN INTERNET FRAUD CASE

Edwin Garcia is sentenced for Internet High-Yield Investment Scam and Money Laundering

Eugene, Ore. B Edwin Tolentino Garcia, 41, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Michael R. Hogan to 27 months imprisonment for Internet fraud and ordered to pay $124,446.74 in restitution to the fraud victims. Prior to his arrest, Garcia resided in Vancouver, Washington. Two co-defendants, Daniel Wheatley and Sunshine Simmons of Springfield, Oregon, were sentenced on October 23, 2007.

Garcia pled guilty on June 6, 2007. At that time, he admitted that he transmitted communications via the Internet advertising high-yield investment programs, knowing that no such high-yield investments existed, and that money 'invested' in the programs would not be invested. Instead, he knew that the 'invested' money would be used for personal expenditures, such as a home, cars, electronics, furniture and jewelry. During the course of the offense, 9,756 people invested in the program and lost $684,388.74.

Wheatley was sentenced on October 23, 2007, to serve a 41 month term of imprisonment for Internet fraud and money laundering. He was also ordered to pay $124,446.74 in restitution to his victims. On that same date, Simmons was sentenced to a three-year term of probation and a six-month term of home detention for concealing information from a bank so that certain financial transaction reports would not be filed. She was also ordered to pay $124,446.74 in restitution, jointly with Wheatley. They both forfeited their personal residence and other assets valued at approximately $300,000, all of which were acquired with fraud proceeds. These assets included a 2005 Mercedes C230, a 2004 Hummer H2, electronic devices, furniture, jewelry and over $200,000 in cashier=s checks and currency.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service, the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, and the Clark County, Washington Sheriff’s Office, with assistance from the Eugene Police Department and Springfield

Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sean B. Hoar.