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FORMER TELEVISION NEWS ANCHOR PLEADS GUILTY TO COMPUTER CRIME

PHILADELPHIA - Lawrence Mendte, 51, of Philadelphia, pleaded guilty today to a felony count of intentionally accessing a protected computer without authorization and obtaining information, announced Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid. Mendte, a former employee of KYW-TV, admitted he illegally gained access to the personal email accounts of former colleague Alycia Lane for more than two years, between March 2006 and May 26, 2008. In August 2006, Mendte purchased a keystroke logger. A keystroke logger can be used to obtain the password to another person's computer accounts. Between January 1, 2008 and May 26, 2008, Mendte accessed Lane's personal e-mail accounts accounts approximately 537 times from his home computer, from a computer at his vacation home, and from a computer at his place of work. He accessed private communications between the victim and others, including attorney-client privileged information, relating to both civil and criminal litigation in which Lane was involved. Mendte then allegedly repeatedly shared information regarding the contents of the private e-mail communications with a newspaper reporter.

The defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 5 years in prison when sentenced on

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Cyber Squad and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael L. Levy.

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