McGREGOR W. SCOTT

United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel 916/554-2700
TTY 916/554-2877

Fresno
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel 559/497-4000
TTY 559/497-4500

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Contact: Lauren Horwood
916/554-2706
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

BAKERSFIELD LAW STUDENT SENTENCED IN EMAIL HARASSMENT SCHEME

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that VICTOR VEVEA, 43, of Bakersfield, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to three years of probation with a condition that he serve 90 days of monitored home confinement. VEVEA had been found guilty on January 24, 2008 of unlawfully accessing the e-mail account of Bakersfield attorney Michael Kilpatrick for the purpose of sending out harassing e-mails in Kilpatrick's name.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Bakersfield Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark J. McKeon, who prosecuted the case, Kilpatrick had represented VEVEA's former girlfriend in a lawsuit against VEVEA in the late 1990s. In 2001, VEVEA gained access to Kilpatrick's e-mail account and began sending out e-mails in Kilpatrick's name to government officials and other lawyers in which Kilpatrick purportedly admitted to being a "pervert." At the same time, VEVEA put up posters all over town, including at Kilpatrick's children's school, in which people were told to "warn your children not to be on the street alone" when Kilpatrick was in the neighborhood. At the time of this conduct, VEVEA was working as a paralegal at a Bakersfield law firm and attending law school. At sentencing, Judge O'Neill said that VEVEA's conduct was motivated by "revenge and spite," and that VEVEA was an "intellectual vigilante who has his own set of laws and rules."

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