



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Melinda Haag
Northern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

August 29, 2011
6599

[@usdoj.gov](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/CAN)

CONTACT: JACK GILLUND
(415) 436-

Jack.Gillund

TWO BAY AREA MEN SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY THEFT SPREE

SAN FRANCISCO - Mauricio Marrufo was sentenced today to two years in prison and ordered to pay \$114,012.50 in restitution for identity theft, United States Attorney Melinda Haag announced. His co-defendant, Chad Litz, was sentenced on June 7, 2011, to four years in prison and ordered to pay \$115,067.15 in restitution for his part in the identity theft scheme.

Marrufo pleaded guilty on April 12, 2011, to aggravated identity theft. Litz pleaded guilty on June 7, 2011, to conspiracy, production of false identification documents, possession of equipment for making false documents, and aggravated identity theft. According to both plea agreements, the defendants admitted to a three-month identity theft campaign in which they obtained free travel and other things of value using false identification documents and unauthorized credit card numbers.

According to court documents, the two men produced false identification that appeared to be issued by several U.S. states as well as the province of Ontario, Canada. The documents included false identification in the names of real people who were unaware of the defendants' activities. They also admitted to using the business name "Active Nurse Service," to fraudulently obtain American Express credit cards. The defendants charged rental cars from various Bay Area locations to unauthorized accounts. They also booked hotel stays and airline

flights to accounts with the online travel service Orbitz that they had no authority to use. The loss attributable to their identity theft offenses was at least \$114,012.42.

In addition, Litz admitted to conducting a scheme in which he sold Continental Airlines flight vouchers that had been fraudulently obtained using stolen credit card numbers and unauthorized frequent flyer accounts. The loss attributable to his scheme was an additional \$1,054.65.

Litz, 34, and Marrufo, 24, were indicted by a federal grand jury on Aug. 5, 2010, for their identity theft activities. Both men have been in custody since their arrests on June 11, 2010.

The sentences were handed down by U.S. District Court Judge William H. Alsup. Judge Alsup also sentenced Litz to a three-year period of supervised release and Marrufo to a one-year period of supervised release. Both were ordered to pay a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count of conviction.

Michelle J. Kane is the Assistant U.S. Attorney who prosecuted the case with the assistance of Lauri Gomez and Janice Pagsanjan. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by the United States Secret Service, California Highway Patrol, and San Bruno Police Department.

Further Information:

Case #: CR 10-00599 WHA

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at www.usdoj.gov/usao/can.

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at www.cand.uscourts.gov.

All press inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office should be directed to Jack Gillund at (415) 436-6599 or by e-mail at Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov.

###