



Office of the

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*Michael A. Ramos, San Bernardino County District Attorney*

### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **YUCAIPA COUPLE CHARGED WITH WORKERS' COMP FRAUD**

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – In July of 2011, members of the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, Workers' Compensation Fraud Prosecution Unit, began an investigation into allegations of possible Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud involving Lois Ann Ventura, 51, of Yucaipa, after receiving a "We Tip" report of possible Workers' Compensation fraud.

During the investigation that followed, it was revealed that Ventura had suffered an industrial injury on August 9, 2010, while employed at a local company and that she subsequently received Workers' Compensation benefits through that company's Workers' Compensation Insurance as a result of her claim.

Through the course of this investigation, evidence was uncovered that showed that although Ventura was receiving Workers' Compensation cash benefits in the form of Total Temporary Disability as a result of her industrial injury, Ventura became the co-owner of a local business along with Keith Lloyd MacBride, 44, also of Yucaipa. Ventura was working at this business while continuing to receive cash benefits as well as medical benefits through the Workers' Compensation program.

During a subsequent interview with Keith MacBride, it was determined that not only was MacBride the co-owner of the business but also the boyfriend of Ventura and that he had knowledge of not only the Workers' Compensation cash benefits that Ventura's was receiving but also Ventura's involvement as part owner of this business. Even though this information was discovered, MacBride misrepresented the facts of this case during the criminal investigation by stating that Ventura was not part owner of the business and that he was the sole owner.

As evidence revealed that the allegations of Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud were substantiated, charges were sought against both Lois Ventura and Keith MacBride for violation of Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud and Conspiracy to commit a crime, as well as failing to obtain Workers' Compensation Insurance for the new business.

On November 3, 2011, Ventura and MacBride were arraigned at the San Bernardino Superior Court. Ventura and MacBride were each released on their own recognizance and ordered to appear back in Court on November 14, 2011. The case will be prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney David Simon.

The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, Workers' Compensation Fraud Prosecution Unit, responds to various reports of insurance fraud as a result of suspected fraud claims provided by an insurance company as well as suspected fraud claims that are received through the "We Tip" hotline by private citizens.

If you suspect that someone you know is or has been involved in Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud, report your suspicions to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, Workers' Compensation Fraud Prosecution Unit, by calling 909-387-8309 or emailing [da@da.sbcounty.gov](mailto:da@da.sbcounty.gov).

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