

PRESS RELEASE

Former FBI Procurement Official Agrees to Plead Guilty to Bid-Rigging Scheme to Obtain Electronics Contracts

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California

LOS ANGELES – A former electronics technician at the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office and his sister were charged today with conspiring to defraud the United States to obtain at least \$350,000 in low-bid electronics equipment contracts from the FBI.

Jeffrey Spencer, 51, of Canyon Country, and Christy Evereklian, 43, of Temecula, were charged via a single-count information filed today with conspiracy to defraud the United States. In plea agreements also filed today, Spencer and Evereklian both agreed to plead guilty to the felony offense, which carries a statutory maximum sentence of five years in federal prison.

Spencer and Evereklian are expected to enter their guilty pleas in the coming weeks in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

According to their plea agreements, from August 2015 through August 2020, Spencer and Evereklian conspired to defraud the United States by impeding the solicitation of competitive bids for electronic equipment by deceitful and dishonest means. Spencer, who was an FBI procurement official and solicited bids for electronic equipment, conspired with Evereklian to submit purportedly independent and competitive bids from Evereklian's several companies for FBI contracts.

In fact, Spencer and Evereklian already had decided which company would submit the lowest – and presumably winning – bid for a contract. Evereklian submitted bids from her own companies to the FBI using the names of her relatives to conceal her control over bidding companies, and she used a random number generator to create the fraudulent bids.

Evereklian further admitted in her plea agreement that during the conspiracy, her companies won at least \$350,000 in contracts from the FBI.

The United States Department of Justice Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation in this matter as part of the Procurement Collusion Strike Force (PCSF).

Assistant United States Attorney Jason Pang of the General Crimes Section is prosecuting this case.