



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

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Alexandria Man Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison for Sex Trafficking of a Child

Tayron Weeks of Alexandria, Va., was sentenced this month to eleven years in prison for sex trafficking of a child. Weeks met the victim at the Braddock Road Metro Station and then took her to a friend's apartment in Alexandria, where Weeks engaged in sexual acts with the victim. Weeks then asked the victim if she was interested in earning money by selling her body, and Weeks encouraged her to do so. The victim told Weeks that she was only 14 years old, and Weeks responded "money is money," and "you might as well get paid for something most girls do for free." The victim eventually contacted police and an undercover detective, posing as a teenage girl, started conversing with Weeks about his desire to prostitute the undercover detective. Weeks plead guilty in September 2014.



Avon China Pleads Guilty to Concealing More Than \$8 Million in Gifts to Chinese Officials

Avon Products Co. Ltd. (Avon China), of the New York-based cosmetics company Avon Products Inc., pleaded guilty this month to conspiring to violate the accounting provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act to conceal more than \$8 million in gifts, cash and non-business meals, travel and entertainment it gave to Chinese government officials in order to obtain and retain business benefits for Avon China. Avon China and Avon admitted the improper accounting and payments and Avon entered into a deferred prosecution agreement to resolve the investigation. According to court documents, from 2004 to 2008, the companies conspired to falsify their books and records by describing the nature and purpose of certain Avon China transactions. Specifically, the companies sought to disguise over \$8 million in gifts, cash and non-business travel, meals and entertainment that Avon China executives and employees gave to government officials in China in order to obtain and retain business benefits for Avon China. Avon China attempted to disguise the payments and benefits through various means, including falsely describing the nature or purpose of, or participants associated with such expenses, and falsely recording payments to a third party intermediary as payments for legitimate consulting services. The companies also admitted that in late 2005 Avon learned that Avon China was routinely providing things of value to Chinese government officials and failing to properly document them. Instead of ensuring the practice was halted, fixing the false books and records, disciplining the culpable individuals, and implementing appropriate controls to address this problem, the companies took steps to conceal the conduct, despite knowing that Avon China's books and records, and ultimately Avon's books and records, would continue to be inaccurate.

Former Controller for D.C. Law Firm Sentenced to 20 Months for Theft of More Than \$960,000

This month, Marc England was sentenced to 20 months in prison on a federal charge stemming from his theft of over \$960,000 from a Washington, D.C. law firm. England worked at a small law firm in Washington, D.C., as the company's controller. Beginning in August 2008, England began sending wire payments from the law firm's bank account directly to various credit card accounts that he himself held. For some of the unauthorized transactions, England used the firm's electronic accounts system to create fraudulent invoices appearing on their face to justify his unauthorized debits. Over the course of a four-year period, England caused the firm to execute 126 separate interstate wire transfers of monies from the firm's checking account to various accounts he held.

Leaders of Honduran Drug Cartel Extradited to Virginia on Federal Drug and Money Laundering Charges

Miguel Arnulfo Valle Valle and his brother Luis Alonso Valle Valle, both Honduran nationals, were extradited this month from Honduras to face federal criminal charges in Virginia and Florida. In June of this year a federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment charging the brothers and 13 other individuals with committing drug and money laundering crimes from 2005 through June 2014. The defendants allegedly lead one of the largest drug trafficking organizations in Honduras, the "VALLE DTO", responsible for the importation and distribution of multi-ton quantities of cocaine into the U.S., valued at millions of dollars. The U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control designated the VALLE DTO, or the "Los Valles Drug Trafficking Organization," under the Kingpin Act as significant foreign narcotics traffickers. The brothers allegedly worked with members of their organization to transport cocaine from Honduras through Guatemala to Mexico, and into the U.S. Drug proceeds were allegedly laundered to members of the VALLE DTO in Honduras through wire transfers, bulk cash payments, and deposits into Honduran banking institutions. The VALLE DTO relied on violence and public corruption to further the objectives of the organization. Both defendants face a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted.

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