



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

Issue 72 – May 2015

Five Major Banks Agree to Plead Guilty to Felony Charges

This month, four banks agreed to plead guilty to felony charges for conspiracy to manipulate the price of U.S. dollars and euros exchanged in the foreign currency exchange spot market. They will pay criminal fines totaling \$2.5 billion as a result of the multiyear WFO investigation. The fifth bank pled guilty and will pay a \$203 million criminal penalty for breaching the non-prosecutive agreement it had previously entered regarding manipulation of the London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR), a benchmark interest rate used worldwide. The WFO investigation uncovered that currency traders from four of the banks—self-described members of “The Cartel”—used an exclusive electronic chat room and coded language to manipulate exchange rates. The result of their actions inflated the banks’ profits while harming countless consumers, investors and institutions around the globe. [Click here](#) to read more.



WFO's ADIC McCabe announced the pleas with Attorney General Lynch on May 20.

Prisoner Who Escaped from Custody at Virginia Hospital Indicted

This month, Wossen Assaye of Arlington, Va., was charged with bank robbery, bank burglary, escape, kidnapping, assault, and related firearms offenses. Beginning in October 2013 until March 2015, Assaye robbed various banks in Northern Virginia on five occasions, twice brandishing a firearm. In a sixth instance, Assaye entered a bank with the intent to commit bank robbery. In March Assaye was charged with a bank robbery offense and was subsequently arrested and detained. While at a Virginia hospital for treatment, Assaye escaped federal custody. During the course of his escape, Assaye brandished a firearm to assault two federal officers assigned to guarding him and kidnapped one of the officers. He faces a minimum of 122 years in prison.

Former Nuclear Regulatory Commission Employee Charged With Attempted Spear-Phishing Attack

Charles Eccleston, a former employee of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was charged this month for an attempted e-mail “spear-phishing” attack in January 2015, targeting dozens of DOE employee e-mail accounts. The goal of the attack was to cause damage to DOE’s computer network through a computer virus that Eccleston believed was being delivered to particular department employees through e-mails, and to extract sensitive, nuclear weapons-related government information that Eccleston believed would be collected by a foreign country. Eccleston, who had been living in the Philippines, was terminated from his employment at NRC in 2010. [Click here](#) to read more.

Billboard Campaign to Solicit Tips in 2014 Murder

WFO and the Prince William County Police announced a campaign to develop leads in the 2014 murder of [Glenda Marisol Coca-Romero](#) in Woodbridge, Va. Beginning this month, law enforcement will display digital billboards in Virginia and Washington, D.C., seeking information regarding Coca-Romero’s murder on the evening of Feb. 21, 2014, at the Platanillos Grocery and Jewelry in Woodbridge, Va. Together, law enforcement has offer a reward of up to \$21,000 for the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for this murder.

REWARD RECOMPENSA	
	<p>Murder Victim Glenda Marisol Coca-Romero</p> <p>REWARD \$21,000</p> <p>up to For information leading to the arrest of the individual(s) responsible for her murder</p>
	<p>Victima de asesinato</p> <p>RECOMPENSA de hasta \$21,000</p> <p>Por información que conduzca al arresto de la(s) persona(s) responsable(s) por su asesinato</p>
1-866-411-TIPS	



FBI Commemorates Twentieth Anniversary of Deadly Shooting

Last month, the nation observed National Police Week. This month, WFO marked a tragic day in D.C. law enforcement history when FBI Special Agent William Christian Jr., was killed in the line of duty. On May 29, 1995, SA Christian was shot and killed by Ralph McLean, who was being sought in connection with several police shootings and killings in the D.C. and Prince George’s County, Md. McLean was expected to meet a former girlfriend in Greenbelt, Md.; and SA Christian, along with 26 other investigators, was conducting a surveillance of the area. At approximately 1:00 a.m., McLean approached SA Christian, who was sitting in his car in a parking lot and shot him through the car window. FBI and MPD pursued McLean to a parking garage, where he killed himself. FBI agents are memorialized at FBI Headquarters

[Hall of Honor](#) and at field offices so that their ultimate sacrifice will always be remembered.