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FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

DEC - 9 2014

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK
DEPUTY
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

PRISCILLA MARIE GARDEE,
DELFORD NEAMAN,
PHILLIP STEVENS,
ANTHONY LINN GARDEE,
SOPHIA LETA GARDEE,
TAMERA JEAN GARDEE,
LATONIA WHEELER,
CYNTHIA A. ARTHUR,
CRYSTAL L. MILLER,
ARNETTA AMY BLODGETT,
BRYCENE ALLEN NEAMAN,
GILBERT ONEPENNEE,
ODESSA P. JOHNSON,
PHILLIP A. BURDEAU, SR., and
SUSAN ALECK,

Defendants.

INDICTMENT

1:14-CR-2092-SAB

Vios:

Cts. 1- 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1163 and 2
- Conspiracy to Commit Theft
From Indian Tribal Organization

Cts. 2-67 - 18 U.S.C. §§ 1163 and 2
Theft from Indian Tribal Organization

The grand jury charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At all times material to this indictment:

A. Relevant Persons and Entities:

1. The Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation was a federally recognized Indian tribe located in the State of Washington and whose government was located at Toppenish, Washington.

1 2. The Yakama Nation Higher Education Office was an Indian tribal organization and was tasked to
2 facilitate a program designed to provide financial scholarships to tribal applicants who sought to
3 obtain a higher education.

4 3. Defendant, PRISCILLA GARDEE, was an agent of the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the
5 Yakama Nation, in that the defendant was an employee of the Yakama Nation Higher Education
6 Program. Upon the resignation of DELFORD NEAMAN, PRISCILLA GARDEE was promoted to
7 the interim Manager of the Yakama Nation Higher Education Program.

8 4. Defendant, DELFORD NEAMAN, was an agent of the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the
9 Yakama Nation, in that the defendant was the Manager of the Yakama Nation Higher Education
10 Program.
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12 B. Description of the Yakama Nation Higher Education Program:

13 5. The Yakama Nation Higher Education Office facilitated a program (hereinafter "the
14 program") designed to provide financial scholarships to tribal applicants who sought to obtain an
15 education.
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17 6. Prospective applicants were required to fill out a Tribal Scholarship/Grant Application
18 (hereinafter "application.") In the application, applicants were required to provide the following: (1)
19 the academic year in which they were applying for funds; (2) identify whether they would attend
20 fall, winter, spring, or summer classes; (3) identify whether they were full-time, part-time, returning,
21 or new; (4) identify their status as Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or College Graduate; (5)
22 personal information; (6) the name of the college/university; (7) the address of the
23 college/university; (8) a desired major/minor field(s) of study; and (9) expected graduation date.
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25 7. Along with the application, students were required to submit a personal letter indicating
26 educational and employment goals.
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1 8. Applicants were required to sign the Tribal Scholarship Agreement which stated in relevant
2 part: I understand that if I withdraw or earn 0.00 GPA/Zero Credits before the term is over for
3 insufficient reasons, I will refund the tribal scholarship awarded to me. I agree to use the award for
4 educational purposes and understand it is my responsibility to send grade transcripts at the end of
5 each quarter/semester to the higher education program, and to inform the program of any changes in
6 my educational process.

7 9. The Defendants submitted applications which stated that that they were furthering their
8 educational and employment goals by attending a specific college and/or university.

9 10. Due to the information provided by the applicants, the applications were approved.
10 Scholarship checks were subsequently provided to the Defendants.

11 11. The colleges and universities identified by the Defendants provided documentation that the
12 Defendants were not enrolled and/or not completing coursework.

13
14 **COUNT ONE: (18 U.S.C. §371 – Conspiracy to Embezzle and Theft from Indian**
15 **Tribal Organization)**

16 11. Paragraphs 1 through 11 are realleged and incorporated here as if they were set forth in full.

17 12. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, but no later than December 10, 2009, and
18 continuing through April 30, 2013, in the Eastern District of Washington, and elsewhere,
19 PRISCILLA GARDEE, DELFORD NEAMAN, PHILLIP STEVENS, ANTHONY GARDEE,
20 SOPHIA GARDEE, TAMERA GARDEE, LATONIA WHEELER, CYNTHIA ARTHUR,
21 CRYSTAL MILLER, ARNETTA BLODGETT, BRYCENE NEAMAN, GILBERT ONEPENNEE,
22 ODESSA JOHNSON, PHILLIP BURDEAU, SR., and SUSAN ALECK, did knowingly and
23 willfully conspire and agree to together and with each other to commit the offense of embezzlement
24 and theft from an Indian tribal organization, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1163. Defendants willfully
25 and unlawfully conspired to embezzle, steal, knowingly convert to their own use, willfully misapply,
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1 and willfully permit to be misapplied, over \$1,000 of the moneys, funds, credits, goods, assets, and
2 other property belonged to the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation, all in violation
3 of Title 18 United States Code, Sections 1163 and 371.

4 Purpose of the Conspiracy:

5 17. The object of the Defendants conspiracy was personal enrichment by fraudulently obtaining
6 funds from an Indian tribal organization.

7 Manner and Means of the Conspiracy:

8 18. The Yakama Nation Higher Education Office facilitated a program (hereinafter "the
9 program") designed to provide financial scholarships to tribal applicants who sought to obtain an
10 education.
11

12 19. Prospective applicants were required to fill out a Tribal Scholarship/Grant Application
13 (hereinafter "application.") In the application, applicants were required to provide the following: (1)
14 the academic year in which they were applying for funds; (2) identify whether they would attend
15 fall, winter, spring, or summer classes; (3) identify whether they were full-time, part-time, returning,
16 or new; (4) identify their status as Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or College Graduate; (5)
17 personal information; (6) the name of the college/university; (7) the address of the
18 college/university; (8) a desired major/minor field(s) of study; and (9) expected graduation date.
19

20 20. Along with the application, students were required to submit a personal letter indicating
21 educational and employment goals.

22 21. Applicants were required to sign the Tribal Scholarship Agreement which stated in relevant
23 part: I understand that if I withdraw or earn 0.00 GPA/Zero Credits before the term is over for
24 insufficient reasons, I will refund the tribal scholarship awarded to me. I agree to use the award for
25 educational purposes and understand it is my responsibility to send grade transcripts at the end of
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each quarter/semester to the higher education program, and to inform the program of any changes in my educational process.

22. The Defendants submitted applications which contained false information.

23. The applications were approved and the Defendants received scholarship checks.

24. It was further part of the conspiracy that at times, the applicants would transfer a portion of the scholarship monies to an employee of the Yakama Nation Higher Education Office.

Overt Acts:

The following substantive counts 2-~~7~~⁶⁷ were committed in furtherance of the aforesaid conspiracy and to accomplish the objects thereof. The Defendants and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury at the times and places set forth, did commit, among others, the following overt acts:

COUNTS 2-67: (18 U.S.C. §1163 and §2 – Theft From Indian Tribal Organization)

The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 10⁶⁷ of Introductory Allegations of this Indictment are realleged in these counts and incorporated by reference as it fully set forth herein.

On or about the following dates, in the Eastern District of Washington, the defendants, PRISCILLA GARDEE, DELFORD NEAMAN, PHILLIP STEVENS, ANTHONY GARDEE, SOPHIA GARDEE, TAMERA GARDEE, LATONIA WHEELER, CYNTHIA ARTHUR, CRYSTAL MILLER, ARNETTA BLODGETT, BRYCENE NEAMAN, GILBERT ONEPENNEE, ODESSA JOHNSON, PHILLIP BURDEAU, SR., and SUSAN ALECK, did embezzle, steal, knowingly convert to his/her use and the use of another, willfully misapply, and willfully permitted to be misapplied, money, funds, credits, assets, and other property of a value in excess of \$1,000 belonging to an Indian Tribal Organization, and did aid and abet the same; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1163 and 2:

Count	Date of Scholarship Award	Amount of Scholarship Award	Date Scholarship Check Cashed	Defendant
2	7/28/11	\$2,094	7/29/11	Priscilla Gardee
3	2/22/12	\$3,000	2/27/12	Priscilla Gardee
4	5/5/11	\$3,000	5/9/11	Priscilla Gardee
5	6/12/12	\$3,000	6/15/12	Priscilla Gardee
6	1/19/11	\$3,000	1/21/11	Priscilla Gardee
7	2/8/10	\$3,000	2/12/10	Priscilla Gardee
8	10/5/11	\$3,000	10/11/11	Priscilla Gardee
9	5/27/10	\$3,000	5/28/10	Priscilla Gardee
10	10/6/10	\$3,000	10/6/10	Priscilla Gardee
11	12/17/10	\$1,750	12/17/10	Phillip Stevens
12	8/19/11	\$1,500	8/22/11	Phillip Stevens
13	11/10/11	\$3,250	11/10/11	Phillip Stevens
14	5/9/11	\$3,250	5/9/11	Phillip Stevens
15	10/7/11	\$3,000	10/7/11	Delford Neaman
16	6/15/12	\$3,000	6/15/12	Delford Neaman
17	8/19/11	\$906.00	8/22/11	Delford Neaman
18	2/27/12	\$3,000	2/27/12	Delford Neaman
19	1/21/11	\$3,000	1/24/11	Delford Neaman
20	11/21/11	\$3,250	11/21/11	Anthony Gardee
21	12/11/09	\$1,500	12/11/09	Anthony Gardee
22	2/18/11	\$1,500	2/22/12	Anthony Gardee
23	2/2/11	\$1,500	2/2/11	Sophia Gardee
24	5/19/12	\$1,500	5/14/12 ¹⁹	Tamera Gardee
25	10/6/10	\$1,500	10/8/10	Latonia Wheeler
26	12/21/09	\$6,500	12/21/09	Latonia Wheeler
27	2/18/11	\$1,500	2/18/11	Latonia Wheeler
28	12/11/09	\$1,750	12/11/09	Cynthia Arthur

1	29	11/21/11	\$3,250	11/22/11	Cynthia Arthur
2	30	7/16/12	\$3,250	7/19/12	Cynthia Arthur
3	31	4/20/12	\$3,250	4/20/12	Cynthia Arthur
4	32	2/2/11	\$4,250	2/2/11	Cynthia Arthur
5	33	8/19/11	\$1,500	8/19/11	Cynthia Arthur
6	34	2/12/10	\$1,500	2/18/10	Crystal Miller
7	35	8/19/11	\$1,500	8/22/11	Arnetta Blodgett
8	36	4/20/12	\$3,250	4/23/12	Arnetta Blodgett
9	37	6/25/10	\$3,250	6/28/10	Arnetta Blodgett
10	38	12/11/09	\$3,250	12/14/09	Arnetta Blodgett
11	39	3/12/10	\$3,250	3/17/10	Arnetta Blodgett
12	40	1/26/11	\$3,250	1/26/11	Arnetta Blodgett
13	41	7/16/12	\$3,250	7/23/12	Arnetta Blodgett
14	42	11/9/11	\$3,250	11/9/11	Arnetta Blodgett
15	43	1/21/11	\$3,250	1/21/11	Brycene Neaman
16	44	11/10/11	\$3,250	11/14/11	Brycene Neaman
17	45	3/12/10	\$3,250	3/12/10	Brycene Neaman
18	46	6/25/10	\$3,250	6/25/10	Brycene Neaman
19	47	8/19/11	\$1,500	8/22/11	Brycene Neaman
20	48	3/9/12	\$3,250	3/9/12	Brycene Neaman
21	49	11/9/11	\$1,155	11/9/11	Gilbert Onepennee
22	50	5/9/11	\$3,250	5/9/11	Gilbert Onepennee
23	51	6/15/12	\$3,250	6/15/12	Gilbert Onepennee
24	52	2/27/12	\$3,250	2/27/12	Gilbert Onepennee
25	53	8/19/11	\$1,155	8/19/11	Gilbert Onepennee
26	54	1/21/11	\$3,250	1/21/11	Gilbert Onepennee
27	55	7/29/11	\$2,095	7/29/11	Gilbert Onepennee

1	56	2/5/10	\$3,250	2/5/10	Gilbert Onepennee
2	57	3/26/10	\$3,000	3/30/10	Odessa Johnson
3	58	7/16/12	\$3,000	7/23/12	Odessa Johnson
4	59	1/21/11	\$3,000	1/28/11	Odessa Johnson
5	60	8/19/11	\$3,000	8/22/11	Odessa Johnson
6	61	1/8/10	\$3,000	1/8/10	Odessa Johnson
7	62	2/2/11	\$3,000	2/4/11	Phillip Burdeau Sr.
8	63	10/26/11	\$3,000	10/26/11	Phillip Burdeau Sr.
9	64	12/11/09	\$3,000	12/11/09	Phillip Burdeau Sr.
10	65	12/11/09	\$1,500	12/14/09	Susan Aleck
11	66	2/2/11	\$1,500	2/3/11	Susan Aleck
12	67	4/16/12	\$3,250	4/17/12	Susan Aleck

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14 DATED: December 9, 2014.

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