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Federal Officials Honor DA's Prosecutors in Fighting Public Frauds

Houston Tx – Officials with the U.S. Social Security Administration presented the Regional Anti-Fraud Award Wednesday to veteran Harris County Assistant District Attorneys John Brewer and Carl Hobbs, for their outstanding work in investigating and prosecuting Social Security-related frauds and thefts.

Hobbs is the Chief of the DA's Public Assistance Fraud Division. Brewer is Chief of the DA's Identity Theft Section.

The award was announced by Ramona Schuenemeyer, the Social Security Administration's Commissioner over the five-state region that includes Harris County. It was presented by Rob Childress, the Special Agent in Charge of the SSA-Office of Inspector General. That is the primary law enforcement agency for the SSA.

District Attorney Patricia Lykos commended the two honorees as prime examples of the professionalism and dedication of the members of the DA's Office. She added, "We are appreciative of the recognition from federal authorities of our extraordinary people, and we are proud of the close cooperation between our organizations."

Childress said the Harris County DA's Office is viewed as a "driving force" for the SSA's Region. He credited ADAs Hobbs and Brewer as one of the reasons the region saved an estimated \$176 million in fraud over the past five years.

Brewer and Hobbs have earned "outstanding" reputations within the SSA as premiere prosecutors against fraud and related crimes, Childress said. "Offenders know there will be prosecutions for what they've done, and that, 'We're going to put you behind bars,'" he said.

The SSA Regional Commissioner told Brewer and Hobbs that their "efforts to protect the Social Security Administration's programs and operations against fraud, waste and abuse help maintain the public's trust and confidence in our agency."

Hobbs also was honored recently with the 2009 United States Attorney's Award for outstanding contributions to criminal justice.

(See photo below)



Social Security Administration Award Ceremony

Officials of the Harris County District Attorney's Office and the Office of Inspector General-Social Security Administration gather after the presentation of the SSA's Region Anti-Fraud Award. Pictured with their awards are Assistant District Attorney Carl Hobbs (front left) and Assistant District Attorney John Brewer (front right), Joining with them is District Attorney Patricia Lykos (center).

Feb. 3, 2010

(Photo: Joseph Strange)