

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ASHLEY ANDREWS, OHANIO HARRIS, ALICIA HANSEN,  
EDEL HANSEN AND CAMPBELL MALONE INDICTED ON  
FEDERAL CORRUPTION CHARGES STEMMING FROM GLOBAL  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS WITH THE LEGISLATURE AND  
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT**

United States Attorney David M. Nissman announced today that a federal Grand Jury sitting on St. Thomas returned a 16 count federal Indictment naming as defendants Ashley Andrews, a principal of Global Resources Management ( GRM ); Ohanio Harris, former special assistant to the governor; Alicia Hansen, former Virgin Islands Senator; Esdel Hansen, and Campbell Malone, a certified public accountant (CPA) who provided professional services to GRM. The indictment charges both federal and territorial offenses, including conspiracy to violate federal law, wire fraud, program fraud, bribery, fraudulent claims upon the Virgin Islands government and violation of Territorial conflict of interest statutes.

According to the indictment, the public sewer system on St. Croix was in a state of

disrepair causing, among other things, severe environmental hazards to the people of, and visitors to, the Virgin Islands. In particular, the public sewer system on St. Croix regularly disgorged raw sewage into the sea. At various times, raw sewage overflowed into the streets in St. Croix and was pumped directly into the harbors in Christiansted and Frederiksted. At such times, approximately 1.7 million gallons of raw sewage had been pumped into the harbors on a daily basis. The human feces included in that sewage contains a large number of pathogenic microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses. These pathogens are extremely harmful to humans.

The indictment alleges that OHANIO HARRIS, ASHLEY ANDREWS, CAMPBELL MALONE, ALICIA HANSEN and ESDER HANSEN and others conspired, in violation of federal law, with the objective of corruptly obtaining money for GRM. To achieve that objective, the defendants performed various tasks on an as-needed basis, including: establishing GRM and obtaining various licenses; agreeing to share any profits generated by GRM among certain individuals, including Ashley Andrews and Ohanio Harris; introducing GRM principals to government officials; causing meetings to be convened to consider GRM for a sewer repair contract to be performed on St. Croix; causing the award of a sewer repair contract to GRM without competitive bidding and transmitting false statements to the Virgin Islands Government in an effort to secure compensation for the sewer repair contract after it was terminated.

The indictment further alleges that ASHLEY ANDREWS, OHANIO HARRIS,

CAMPBELL MALONE and others participated in a scheme to corruptly obtain money and property and to deprive the people of the Virgin Islands of the intangible right of honest services, by means of material false and fraudulent pretenses and representations, omissions and concealment of material facts.

According to the indictment, the scheme involved securing a no-bid contract for sewer repair work and generating a fraudulent claim for expenses incurred as a result of preparing a proposal for a contract to repair the St. Croix sewer system.

As part of the scheme to defraud the Virgin Islands government of honest services and in furtherance thereof the grand jury charged that the defendants OHANIO HARRIS, ASHLEY ANDREWS, CAMPBELL MALONE and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, each of whom had different roles in the scheme and performed tasks to further the scheme, including: making corrupt arrangements to secure apparent bonding for GRM to perform the sewer repair contract; transmitting e-mail communications in an effort to secure bonding for GRM for the sewer repair contract; executing documents, or directing others to do such acts, that would cause GRM to receive a bond for the sewer repair contract; and, deprived the Virgin Islands government and its citizens of their right to the honest services of an agent of the Virgin Islands when Ohanio Harris, a territorial officer, obtained an interest in GRM, financial and otherwise, which was in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of Ohanio Harris duties in the public interest.

Conspiracy to violate federal law carries a maximum statutory penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Wire Fraud carries a maximum penalty of twenty years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Program Fraud carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Bribing Certain Public Officers carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000. Fraudulent Claims carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment and a fine of \$500,000. Receipt of a Bribe carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000. Conflict of Interest carries a minimum penalty of one year and a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$5,000.

U.S. Attorney Nissman stated that at a time when essential services to the people of the Virgin Islands are in jeopardy, it is critical that those who corruptly compromise those essential services and take advantage of urgent public need in an effort to gain personal enrichment need to be held accountable.

Attorney Nissman emphasized that an indictment is merely a charging document and that, as in all criminal cases, the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

U.S. Attorney Nissman stated that this case was the result of a joint investigation by the Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the Inspector General s Investigation Division. He commended their hard work and added that the Virgin

Islands community should feel confident to report matters of bribery and corruption to the Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General at 340-774-3388 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation at 340-777-3363 (St. Thomas) or 340-773-7922 (St. Croix). He concluded by stating that these agencies will take the matter seriously and proceed judiciously with the appropriate course of action. All residents of the Virgin Islands should feel some level of comfort in the knowledge that any effort to deprive Virgin Islands residents of their right to honest services of public officials will be vigorously enforced by local and federal law enforcement authorities working together.