

FELONY

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**INDICTMENT FOR PONZI SCHEME INVOLVING MAIL FRAUD,
WIRE FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING, SECURITIES FRAUD,
WITNESS TAMPERING, AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MATTHEW B. PIZZOLATO

*** CRIMINAL NUMBER:**

*** SECTION:**

*** VIOLATIONS: 15 U.S.C. § 78j and 78ff
17 C.F.R. 240.10(b)-5
* 18 U.S.C. § 2
* 18 U.S.C. § 1341
* 18 U.S.C. § 1343
* 18 U.S.C. § 1503
* 18 U.S.C. § 1512
18 U.S.C. § 1957**

*** * ***

The Grand Jury charges that:

COUNTS 1 - 51

MAIL FRAUD

A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN:

1. Since approximately 2005, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, was affiliated with and/or owned and/or operated and/or claimed to be the President of Acadian Guaranty Group, LLC; Allegiance Financial, LLC; Annuity Presets, LLC; Annuity Recovery Services,

LLC; Anova Marketing Systems, LLC; Anova Marketing Systems, LLC; Anytime Fitness of Sulphur, LLC; Cornerstone Wealth Management, LLC; Global Assured Financial, Inc.; Green Pelican Group, Inc.; Gulf South Guaranty, Inc.; Gulf States Guaranty, LLC; GRG Holdings, LLC; GRG I, LLC; GRG II, LLC; Matt P, LLC; National Insurance Advisors, LLC; Pelican Guaranty Group, Inc. (Pelican Guaranty); and Spectrum Lending Group, LLC.

2. From 2005 to 2008, defendant maintained office locations in Baton Rouge, Covington, Hammond, and Lake Charles, Louisiana.

3. Gulf Region Guaranty and its affiliated companies advertised in Louisiana newspapers including the New Orleans Times Picayune, the Hammond Daily Star, and the Advocate in Baton Rouge.

4. At a time unknown, Gulf Region Guaranty established the website www.gulfregionguaranty.com where **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** advertised and promoted investment services.

5. According to the website, "Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc and its subsidiaries have been providing Financial Advisory services and Alternative Asset management for over 20 years. Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc's mission is to provide exceptional fund management services by consistently approaching challenges in the financial arena with proven methods and tactics that produce desirable outcomes."

6. Gulf Region Guaranty advertised on its website that its "highly regarded services in Fund and Asset management have been sought after by the most elite Investors around the globe."

7. According to the website, "Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc prides itself on managing Financial Advisors and Investors who typically have the following investment philosophy's [sic] built on three pillars: 1. Preservation of Capital; 2. Delivering absolute results; 3. Lower volatility than traditional major indices."

8. Gulf Region Guaranty promoted its investment services specifically to senior citizens. Gulf Region Guaranty claimed that "[e]arning your confidence is very important to us. Respect is essential in any fiduciary relationship. That's why more seniors trust our reputation."

9. Gulf Region Guaranty and its affiliates advertized that they "specialize[d] in safe money management." They further claimed to investors they could "maximize your returns while ensuring the protection of your principal and your retirement."

10. Gulf Region Guaranty and its affiliates further claimed that they could assist investors in "safeguarding your nest egg," urging investors to consider the "safety of" certain investments.

11. Gulf Region Guaranty advertised that it specialized "in conservative plan designs that yield the highest possible returns on all of your investments. That is why we only offer 100% guaranteed investment options."

12. According to Gulf Region Guaranty literature, Gulf Region Guaranty could help retirees "[g]row your retirement savings by participating in the up-side of the stock market, without the risk of the down-side, and both your principal and interest are 100% guaranteed!"

13. From on or about June 2005 through the date of this indictment approximately one hundred and sixty (160) individuals (hereinafter investors) invested approximately nineteen

million five hundred thousand dollars (\$19,500,000.00) with **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, Gulf Region Guaranty, and its affiliates.

14. **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used lulling payments and characterized them as interest payments and/or payments classified as “loans or withdrawals” to deceive investors into believing their money was invested legitimately.

15. **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, used the terms “safe”, “insured”, “guaranteed”, “conservative”, and “no-risk” to describe to investors the nature of their investments made with Gulf Region Guaranty and its affiliates. As a result, investors were led to believe their principal investments were immune from market volatility and were secure from any losses.

16. **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, Gulf Region Guaranty, and its affiliates used the United States Mail and Fed Ex to mail correspondence, statements, and lulling payments to investors. FedEx was a commercial interstate carrier as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341 (the mail fraud statute). Hereinafter, the term “mail” will include both methods of delivery.

B. THE (PONZI) SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

Beginning at a time unknown, but prior to on or about June 2005, and continuing to the date of this indictment, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly and willfully devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and/or property from investors by means of false pretenses, promises and representations.

It was a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** and others known and unknown to the grand jury would represent to potential investors that their investments were no-risk, 100% guaranteed, with a fixed interest rate, and/or were secured and “backed” by U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** would use the Gulf Region Guaranty website to make false representations to potential investors.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** would use new investor money to pay lulling payments to other investors in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, would mail lulling payments or “loans” to investors to give the investors a false sense of security and in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used investor money for high-risk futures trading, commodities trading, real estate investments and /or other high-risk business ventures that were not approved or authorized by the investors.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, would use the term “private offering” to lull potential investors into investing their money with **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, Gulf Region Guaranty, and its affiliated companies.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, would characterize the investments offered as securities or investment contracts with legitimate financial institutions or indices, such as ING Group, Sun Life Financial, and S&P 500.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, would offer potential investors a “bonus” to cover surrender penalties incurred from the early withdrawal of an annuity or other legitimate investment that the investor/victim would cash-out in order to invest with Gulf Region Guaranty or its affiliated companies.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, would forge the signatures of investors on various financial forms and create fictitious corporate documents with forged member signatures in order to obtain investor funds being held at legitimate financial institutions.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about March 2, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known or unknown to the grand jury, forged the signature of J. F. on a state of Louisiana Articles of Organization form for the purpose of establishing Gulf States Guaranty, L.L.C.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on numerous occasions **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** issued documents to investors entitled “Certificate of Investment” in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** and others known and unknown to the grand jury would create fictitious financial

statements or account statements to be sent to investors in order to deceive investors into believing their money was secure and invested properly.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investors that he was an expert in foreign exchanges and received specialized training and education in handling investments and finances.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investors that he was one of the top ten Financial Planners in the country.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investors that he was a Certified Estate Planner.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investors that his company specialized in "Safe Money."

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investors that he offered higher interest rates on U. S. Treasury Bills because his company received a commission when they purchase Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** misrepresented to investors that he had graduated from law school and could prepare wills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from on or about July 1, 2005, through the date of this indictment, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** made cash withdrawals of investors' money totaling approximately \$220,000.00.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about July 28, 2005, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** leased a new 2006 Mercedes Benz S430V for \$69,782.14 and used approximately \$11,967.00 of investors' money as a down payment.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from in or about August 2005, through in or about March 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$30,000.00 of investors' money toward the purchase of furniture and \$3,000.00 of investor's money toward the purchase of LSU spring event tickets.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from in or about November 2005, through in or about February 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** transferred approximately \$974,000.00 of investors' money to his various relatives.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about May 1, 2006, and on or about June 6, 2006, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** transferred approximately \$670,000.00 of investors' money to his personal financial investment account.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about July 24, 2006, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** purchased a new 2007 Ford F-250 Crew Cab for \$52,559.80 and used approximately \$30,600.00 of investors' money toward the purchase.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from in or about August 2006, through in or about March 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$1,671.00 of investors' money toward the purchase of New Orleans Hornets tickets.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about September 9, 2006, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** purchased a 2006 BMW 750LI for \$93,410.16 and, at the

time of purchase, claimed he was the President of Gulf Region Guaranty earning an annual salary of \$800,000.00.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that in or about September 2006, through in or about September 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$17,600.00 of investors' money toward the purchase of Carnival cruises.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about November 20, 2006, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$48,457.95 of investors' money toward the purchase of a 2006 Chevrolet Corvette and, at the time of purchase, **PIZZOLATO** registered the sports car to Gulf Region Guaranty.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that in or about November 2006, through in or about January 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$150,000.00 of investors' money toward the purchase of jewelry from various retailers. To wit: on or about March 21, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$35,242.00 of investors' money to purchase a 3.31 karat diamond ring.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that in or about December 2006, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$9,000.00 of investors' money at the Four Seasons Hotel in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from in or about December 2006, through in or about May 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$8,600.00 of investors' money toward the purchase of New Orleans Saints tickets.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that in or about 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$600,000.00 of investors' money toward the construction of his home in Ponchatoula, Louisiana.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that in or about February 2007, through in or about October 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** used approximately \$75,000.00 of investors' money toward the purchase of a home theater and security system for his home.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about March 9, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** purchased a 2007 Yamaha all-terrain vehicle for approximately \$10,492.66 and used approximately \$5,756.10 of investors' money as a down payment.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about April 3, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** purchased/leased a new 2007 Range Rover Sport for \$70,727.36 and used approximately \$19,400.00 of investors' money as a down payment and, at the time of purchase, claimed he was the owner of Gulf Region Guaranty earning an annual salary of \$500,000.00.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that between on or about January 30, 2008, and on or about March 15, 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** offered several of his employees a \$20,000.00 bribe to persuade them to assist **PIZZOLATO** in obstructing justice by falsifying material investment records in an effort to conceal the Ponzi scheme.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, would advertise, recruit, and entice investors by, among other things, making material misrepresentations, as noted above in Part A, about the nature of the investments. A sample of the approximate 160 investor/victims are noted below and are referred to by their initials:

INVESTORS W. L. AND S. L.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that in or about April or May 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** met with investors W.L. and S.L. who instructed **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** to invest their life savings in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about May 3, 2007, W. L. and S. L. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 1022 in the amount of approximately \$100,000.00 to invest in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that at a time unknown but after on or about May 3, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** provided W. L. and S. L. a fraudulent financial statement that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** claimed to reflect a May 3, 2007 purchase of \$100,000.00 worth of U. S. Treasury Bills on behalf of W. L. and S. L.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about July 15, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, issued W. L. and S. L. a Gulf Region Guaranty statement regarding their \$100,000.00 investment in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about July 7, 2007, W. L. and S. L. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 1018 in the amount of approximately \$285,000.00 to invest in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from on or about June 12, 2007, through on or about March 7, 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, mailed, or caused to be mailed, lulling payment checks to W. L. and S. L. in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

INVESTORS M. K. AND M. K.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that at a time unknown but prior to on or about March 30, 2006, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** met with investors M. K. and M. K. who instructed **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** to invest their money in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about a time unknown but prior to on or about March 30, 2006, and continuing to on or about July 7, 2006, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investors M. K. and M. K. that their money would earn a minimum guaranteed rate of interest of 12.06 percent.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about March 30, 2006, M. K. and M. K. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 71141230 in the amount of approximately \$67,551.26 to invest in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about March 30, 2006, M. K. and M. K. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 71141231 in the amount of approximately \$51,750.56 to invest in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about April 25, 2006, M. K. and M. K. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 32718 in the amount of approximately \$73,222.15 to invest in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about June 15, 2006, M. K. and M. K. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 586015 in the amount of approximately \$61,080.02 to invest in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about June 27, 2006, M. K. and M. K. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 048088 in the amount of approximately \$62,927.93 to invest in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that in or about September 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, issued M. K. and M. K., after repeated requests, a two page document entitled "Statement of Accounts, Gulf Region Guaranty" in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from on or about June 12, 2006, through on or about March 12, 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, or a representative of **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, mailed, or caused to be mailed, lulling payment checks to M. K. and M. K. in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

INVESTORS P. D. AND S. D.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that at a time unknown but prior to on or about November 15, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investor P. D. that his money would earn a guaranteed rate of interest of 7.5 percent.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about November 15, 2007, P. D. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 1760 in the amount of approximately \$16,000.00 to invest with ING Investments or in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about November 15, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** instructed P. D. to sign a document entitled "IRA Services Investment Authorization" that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** said he would complete and use to transfer approximately \$178,161.64 from P. D.'s retirement account from Prudential Financial into a rollover IRA with IRA Services for the benefit of P. D.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about November 17, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** created a fictitious corporate document, without the

knowledge or permission of P. D., entitled "Operating Agreement of Pelican Guaranty Group, A Louisiana Limited Liability Company" (P. D. Operating Agreement), which falsely listed investor P. D. as a member and bore a forged signature of P. D.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that at a time unknown but between on or about November 11, 2007, and on or about January 4, 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, mailed the forged P. D. Operating Agreement to IRA Services in California thereby withdrawing, without P. D.'s knowledge, permission, or approval, \$167,452.88 from P. D.'s IRA account and transferring P. D.'s funds into a bank account controlled by **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about February 4, 2008, P. D. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known or unknown to the grand jury, check No. 512894, in the amount of approximately \$11,687.00, and check No. 2423, in the amount of approximately \$4,000.00, to invest with ING Investments or in U. S. Treasury Bills.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about March 1, 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, mailed P. D. a Pelican Guaranty Group statement regarding his \$183,139.88 investment in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

INVESTORS L. K. AND D. K.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that at a time unknown but prior to on or about January 22, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** represented to investors M. K. and D. K. that their investment would earn a guaranteed rate of interest of 12 percent, was protected by the federal government, and was safe and secure.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about January 22, 2007, L. K. and D. K. withdrew approximately \$20,000.00 from their Sun Life Annuity and gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** approximately \$20,000.00 to invest on their behalf in guaranteed no-risk investments.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about February 2, 2007, L. K. and D. K. gave **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** check No. 5170 in the amount of approximately \$116,666.67 to invest on their behalf in guaranteed no-risk investments.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that on or about April 4, 2007, and on or about May 10, 2007, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, faxed a document entitled "Total Account Statement" to L. K. and D. K. in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi scheme.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that from on or about March 5, 2007, through on or about January 25, 2008, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, mailed, or caused to be mailed, lulling payment checks to L. K. and D. K. in an effort to conceal the true nature of the Ponzi Scheme.

C. THE MAILINGS

On or about the dates listed below, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud set forth in Part B, knowingly and willfully caused the following lulling payments and "loans" to be delivered by mail according to the direction thereon, as set forth below:

Count No.	Investor Payee	Payor	Date	Check No.	Check Amount
1	W. L. (L. L.)	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	06/12/07	2781	\$708.33
2	W. L. (L. L.)	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	07/03/07	2817	\$708.33
3	W. L. (L. L.)	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	07/19/07	2830	\$708.33
4	W. L. (L. L.)	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	07/19/07	2846	\$25,000.00
5	W. L. (L. L.)	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	08/17/07	2986	\$708.33
6	W. L. (L. L.)	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	08/20/07	2987	\$2,351.80
7	W. L. (L. L.)	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	08/20/07	2988	\$2,438.00
8	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	09/10/07	600002	\$708.33
9	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	09/10/07	600003	\$2,351.80
10	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	10/09/07	600035	\$833.33
11	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	10/09/07	600036	\$2,500.00
12	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	11/08/07	600076	\$833.33
13	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	11/08/07	600077	\$2,500.00
14	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	12/07/07	600123	\$833.33
15	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	12/07/07	600124	\$2,500.00
16	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	01/08/08	600163	\$833.33
17	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	01/08/08	600164	\$2,500.00
18	W. L. (L. L.)	GRG Holdings, LLC	02/08/08	600211	\$833.33
19	W. L. or S. L.	GRG Holdings, LLC	02/08/08	600212	\$2,500.00
20	W. L. or S. L.	GRG Holdings, LLC	03/07/08	995037	\$833.33
21	W. L. or S. L.	GRG Holdings, LLC	03/07/08	995045	\$2,500.00
22	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	06/12/06	1200	\$1,934.87
23	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	07/11/06	2051	\$2,581.97
24	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	08/14/06	2120	\$1,934.87
25	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	08/14/06	2122	\$1,529.03

Count No.	Investor Payee	Payor	Date	Check No.	Check Amount
26	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	09/18/06	1223	\$1,934.87
27	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	10/12/06	2260	\$1,934.87
28	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	11/09/06	2325	\$1,934.87
29	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	12/13/06	2409	\$1,934.87
30	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	01/16/07	2485	\$1,934.87
31	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	02/13/07	2566	\$1,934.87
32	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	03/11/07	2678	\$1,934.87
33	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	04/13/07	1306	\$1,934.87
34	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	05/10/07	2933	\$1,934.87
35	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	06/06/07	2778	\$1,934.87
36	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	07/12/07	2840	\$1,934.87
37	M. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	08/13/07	2994	\$1,934.87
38	M. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	09/10/07	600011	\$1,934.87
39	M. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	10/09/07	600043	\$1,934.87
40	M. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	11/08/07	600084	\$1,934.87
41	M. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	12/07/07	600130	\$1,934.87
42	M. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	01/08/08	600169	\$1,934.87
43	M. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	02/08/08	600217	\$1,934.87
44	M. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	03/07/08	995043	\$1,934.87
45	L. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	03/05/07	2654	\$800.00
46	L. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	04/04/07	2739	\$800.00
47	L. K.	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc.	07/26/07	2974	\$800.00
48	L. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	09/28/07	600029	\$800.00
49	L. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	10/25/07	600071	\$800.00
50	L. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	11/23/07	600113	\$800.00

Count No.	Investor Payee	Payor	Date	Check No.	Check Amount
51	L. K.	GRG Holdings, LLC	01/25/08	600204	\$800.00

all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 2.

COUNT 52

MAIL FRAUD - IRA ACCOUNT OF INVESTOR P. D.

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. On or about January 4, 2008, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud set forth in Part B of Counts 1-51, knowingly and willfully caused to be delivered by mail, according to the direction thereon, Pelican Guaranty Group, LLC check No. 17701, in the amount of \$167,452.88, payable to Pelican Guaranty Group, LLC, FBO P. D., that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** deposited into a bank account controlled by **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 2.

COUNTS 53 - 54

WIRE FRAUD

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. On or about the dates listed below, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, for

the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud set forth in Part B of Counts 1-51, caused the following bank wire transfers to be transmitted in interstate commerce, by means of a wire communication:

Count No.	Originating Bank	Recipient Bank	Wire Amount	Date of Wire Transfer
53	Matthew & Rachael Pizzolato personal checking account with Regions Bank (formerly AmSouth Bank) Account *****5831	Harris Bank FBO Matthew Pizzolato Man Financial Account *** ***** 79204	\$200,000.00	05/01/06
54	Matthew & Rachael Pizzolato personal checking account with Regions Bank (formerly AmSouth Bank) Account *****5831	Harris Bank FBO Matthew Pizzolato Man Financial Account *** ***** 79204	\$470,000.00	06/07/06

all in violation of Title 18, United Stats Code, Sections 1343 and 2.

COUNTS 55 - 61

MONEY LAUNDERING

(FUNDS DEPOSITED BY INVESTORS W. L. AND S. L.)

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. On or about the below listed dates, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly engage and attempt to engage in monetary transactions by, through, or to a financial institution,

affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, that is, transfers of investor deposits from and to bank accounts owned and controlled by **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, said funds having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, that is, Mail Fraud:

Count No.	Type of Monetary Transaction	Transaction Amount	Recipient of Funds	Date of Transaction
55	Interbank transfer	\$40,000.00	GRG Holdings, LLC Iberia Account **6961	07/20/07
56	Interbank transfer	\$40,000.00	Matt P., LLC Iberia Account *****2008	07/20/07

all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1957 and 2.

MONEY LAUNDERING

(FUNDS DEPOSITED BY INVESTORS M. K. AND M. K., AND OTHERS)

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. On or about the below listed dates, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly engage and attempt to engage in monetary transactions by, through, or to a financial institution, affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, that is, transfers of investor deposits from and to bank accounts owned and controlled by **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, said funds having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, that is, Mail Fraud:

Count No.	Type of Monetary Transaction	Transaction Amount	Recipient of Funds	Date of Transaction
57	Interbank transfer	\$225,000.00	Rachael D. & Matthew Pizzolato Regions (formerly AmSouth Bank) Account ***5831	05/01/06

all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1957 and 2.

MONEY LAUNDERING

(FUNDS DEPOSITED BY INVESTORS P. D. AND S. D.)

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. On or about the below listed dates, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly engage and attempt to engage in monetary transactions by, through, or to a financial institution, affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, that is, checks drawn on bank accounts owned and controlled by **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, said funds having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, that is, Mail Fraud:

Count No.	Type of Monetary Transaction	Transaction Amount	Recipient of Funds	Date of Transaction
58	Check No. 1061	\$18,000.00	Lulling payment to investor	01/14/08
59	Check No. 1066	\$70,061.93	Lulling payment to investor	01/14/08

all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1957 and 2.

MONEY LAUNDERING

(FUNDS DEPOSITED BY INVESTORS L. K. AND D. K.)

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. On or about the below listed dates, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly engage and attempt to engage in monetary transactions by, through, or to a financial institution, affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, that is, transfers of investor deposits to bank accounts owned and controlled by **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, said funds having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, that is, Mail Fraud:

Count No.	Type of Monetary Transaction	Transaction Amount	Recipient of Funds	Date of Transaction
60	Interbank transfer	\$50,000.00	Matthew B. Pizzolato DBA Snap Fitness Regions (formerly AmSouth Bank) Account ****0622	02/09/07
61	Interbank transfer	\$60,000.00	Gulf Region Guaranty, Inc. Sherel J. Pizzolato Regions (formerly AmSouth Bank) Account ****4329	02/09/07

all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1957 and 2.

COUNT 62

SECURITIES FRAUD

1. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

2. Since approximately 2005, through in or about October 2009, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly, directly and indirectly, by the use of the means of instrumentalities of interstate commerce, the mails, the wire communications, and of facilities of national securities exchanges, in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, as described in Counts 1 - 51, used and employed manipulative and deceptive devices and contrivances in violation of Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 240.10b-5 by (a) employing devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud; (b) making untrue statements of material fact and omitting to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and (c) engaging in acts, practices, and courses of business which operated and would operate as a fraud and deceit upon purchasers and sellers of these securities; all in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Sections 78j(b) and 77ff; Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 240.10b-5.

COUNT 63

WITNESS TAMPERING

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. Between on or about January 30, 2008, and on or about March 15, 2008, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, did knowingly attempt to corruptly persuade his employees and others by offering them \$20,000.00 with the intent to cause and induce them to alter, destroy, mutilate, and conceal, an object, to wit: investment certificates with the intent to impair the object's integrity and availability for use in an investigation

undertaken by the Federal Grand Jury for the Eastern District of Louisiana; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512(b)(2)(B) and 2.

COUNT 64

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

A. The allegations contained in Parts A and B of Counts 1- 51 are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

B. Beginning on or about April 1, 2008, and continuing to on or about April 9, 2008, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, did corruptly endeavor to influence, obstruct, and impede the due administration of justice, before the Federal Grand Jury for the Eastern District of Louisiana, in that **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** went to the residence of investor K. A. and, without her knowledge or permission, did steal her original investment documents, and only after K. A. reported the incident to law enforcement, did **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO** return some of K. A.'s documents along with fraudulent copies that had been altered, in an effort to conceal the illegal activity set forth in this indictment; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1503 and 2.

NOTICE OF MAIL, WIRE AND SECURITIES FRAUD FORFEITURE

1. The allegations of Counts 1 through 54 and 62 of this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1343; Title 15, United States Code, Section 78(ff); and Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. As a result of the offenses alleged in Counts 1 through 54 and 62, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to said violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1343 and Title 15, United States Code, Section 78(ff).

3. If any of the above described property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

NOTICE OF MONEY LAUNDERING FORFEITURE

1. The allegations of Counts 55 through 61 of this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to

the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 982.

2. As a result of the offenses, alleged in Counts 55 through 61, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, shall forfeit to the United States all property real or personal, involved in the aforesaid offenses and all property traceable to such property, including but not limited to the following property, which was involved in the said violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957, or is traceable to such property, that is:

\$19,500,000.00 in United States Currency and all interest and proceeds traceable thereto, in that such sum in aggregate is property which was involved in the aforesaid offenses or is traceable to such property.

3. If any of the property described above as being subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property, that is \$19,500,000.00.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 982.

NOTICE OF WITNESS TAMPERING FORFEITURE

1. The allegations of Count 63 of this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512 and 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

2. As a result of the offenses alleged in Count 64, the defendant, **MATTHEW PIZZOLATO**, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to said violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512.

3. If any of the above described property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property.


All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), made applicable through Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL:

Foreperson



JIM LETTEN (8517)
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



JAN MASELLI MANN (9020)
First Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division



JAMES R. MANN (20513)
Assistant United States Attorney



BRIAN M. KLEBBA (2938728 N.Y.)
Assistant United States Attorney



MATTHEW S. CHESTER (24045650 TX)
Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana
November 20, 2009