

Appendix A: Elder Justice Cases

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
Consumer Protection Branch	<i>U.S. v. Bai</i>	2:20-cr-00621-AB (C.D. Cal.)	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Four defendants convicted of money laundering conspiracy in connection with the laundering of proceeds of fraud stored on thousands of Target gift cards.	Superseding Indictment; Convicted 9/26/2023; Sentenced 3/26/2024 to 180 months' imprisonment	
Consumer Protection Branch	<i>U.S. v. Arias</i>	24-CR-0006 (DNJ)	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Prosecution of Dominican perpetrators of transnational grandparent scam fraud by indictment and in related cases of U.S. persons charged by separate indictment, information, and complaint, all filed in the District of New Jersey. www.justice.gov/opa/pr/sixteen-defendants-charged-connection-transnational-grandparent-scam-operated-dominican	Complaint; Information; Indictment; Extradited 8/2/2024	
Consumer Protection Branch	<i>U.S. v. Baiyewu</i>	21-395	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam; COVID-19-Related Fraud	The defendants are alleged to have worked together in 2020 and 2021 to profit from efforts to “clean” money (approximately \$3.9 million) from scams involving victims, many of whom were older adults, in California, Illinois, Washington, and Nevada, and business email compromise schemes affecting victim companies in Puerto Rico and Missouri. After receiving the proceeds, the defendants or their co-conspirators conducted hundreds of transactions with the funds, including by obtaining cashier’s checks and money orders, and then using the cashier’s checks and money orders to purchase used cars that were shipped overseas to Nigeria. www.justice.gov/opa/pr/four-men-charged-superseding-indictment-conspiring-laundry-funds-various-fraud-schemes	Superseding Indictment	
Consumer Protection Branch	<i>U.S. v. Petitfrere</i>	0:24-cr-60080	Criminal	Romance Scam	One U.S.-based defendant charged with money laundering in connection with a romance scam.	Indictment	
USAO Alabama, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Allen</i>	2:23cr266	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Scam	Allen, age 36, held himself out as the owner of an insulation business called Professional Fix LLC. In January of 2021, Allen was doing some work for the older victim and proceeded to tell the older victim that his mother had recently passed away and that he had inherited his mother’s house in Montgomery. Allen asked the victim to provide him with money so that he could remodel and resell the house for a profit. None of this was true and the money was used for Allen's personal benefit. www.justice.gov/usao-mdal/pr/montgomery-man-sentenced-prison-and-ordered-pay-nearly-370000-schemes-targeting	Pled guilty; Sentenced 2/20/2024 to 76 months' imprisonment; \$369,703.60 restitution ordered	
USAO Alabama, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Henderson et al.</i>	2:24-cr-00120-AMM-NAD	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement; Identity Theft	Three defendants charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and aggravated identity theft. Two of the defendants are a mother-daughter pair that served as the victim's full-time caretakers. The third defendant is married to one of the co-defendants. These individuals ran the victim's credit cards through fraudulently opened accounts via Square and Stripe and then transferred the proceeds to themselves. www.justice.gov/usao-ndal/pr/five-individuals-charged-elder-fraud-scheme-including-two-home-caretakers	Indictment	Whitney Wallace, Shakira English

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USAO Alabama, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Wallace</i>	2:24-cr-00096-AMM-JHE	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	The defendant was a house cleaner at the victim's residence. During her time of employment, the defendant stole the victim's financial information. After the defendant stopped working at the victim's residence, she used the victim's financial information to purchase around \$43,000 in items for herself without the victim's permission or authority.	Information	
USAO Alabama, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Ayeni</i>	22-cr-00253-TFM	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam	Ayeni and his co-conspirators engaged in a business email compromise scheme involving real estate transactions in which e-mails contained a malware-embedded link, that when clicked, was followed by a spoofed e-mail that appeared to come from the real estate agent/title company/etc., containing wiring instructions for an account associated with the conspiracy. Once the victim wired the money, it was sent primarily to Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates.	Indictment; Extradited 5/12/2023	Yusuf Olasunkanmi Lasisi, Feyisayo Oyindola Ogunsanwo
USAO Alabama, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Johnson et al.</i>	1:23cr99	Criminal	Mail Theft	Johnson and her co-defendants engaged in a conspiracy to steal mail from homes and businesses that bore the identifiers of an older person in the Mobile area, taking checks and other identification documents from the stolen mail, and generating counterfeits and forgeries to be deposited into bank accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-sdal/pr/group-mobile-mail-thieves-and-fraudsters-sentenced-federal-court	Convicted 4/8/2024; Sentenced 4/8/2024 to 36 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release and drug and/or mental health treatment	Julian Wayne Roberts, Nicholas O'Neal Martin, Maranda Lynn Slate
USAO Alabama, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Williams</i>	23 -CR-00129	Criminal	Mail Theft	Williams, age 32, employed as a mail carrier, stole and sold a USPS "arrow" key to a co-conspirator. The co-conspirator stole hundreds of pieces of mail using the mail key. Williams also conspired to commit bank fraud involving counterfeit checks deposited into her bank account. The counterfeit checks were derived from checks stolen from the mail.	Convicted 11/15/2023; Sentenced 2/23/2024 to 30 months' imprisonment	
USAO Alabama, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Gutierrez</i>	23-cr-00128	Criminal	Identity Theft	Gutierrez, age 47, stole personally identifiable information of an older resident to create a Gmail account and then used the Gmail account to open a Chime checking account and obtain a Chime debit card without the older victim's knowledge or authorization. Gutierrez then fraudulently used the card at various merchants, including Cash App, Cricut, Hulu, Roku, and Walmart. www.justice.gov/usao-sdal/pr/mobile-woman-sentenced-two-years-prison-bank-fraud-and-mail-theft	Convicted 3/21/2024; Sentenced 3/21/2024 to 24 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release, including drug testing and treatment	
USAO Alaska	<i>U.S. v. Reder</i>	3:23cr27/ 3:22cr63	Criminal	Theft or Fraud by a Handyman	Reder, age 37, was hired by the older victim to help her clean her garage after her late husband, a retired military officer, had passed away. Reder used this opportunity to burglarize the victim's home. He stole over 40 firearms, her engagement ring, her late husband's Rolex watch, which was a gift from his squadron, and other irreplaceable items. www.justice.gov/usao-ak/pr/anchorage-felon-sentenced-possessing-stolen-firearms-and-possessing-fentanyl-and-heroin	72 months' imprisonment; additional 18 consecutive months	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Totten</i>	4:23cr282	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Totten, age 72, defrauded many of her older clients while working as a licensed insurance agent. Totten fraudulently over-collected insurance premium payments by falsely representing the terms of the insurance policies to her clients. www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/former-arizona-licensed-insurance-agent-sentenced-prison-defrauding-elderly-clients	21 months' imprisonment; \$114,781 restitution ordered	

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USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Annang et al.</i>	4:22cr893 /4:22mj5750	Criminal	Romance Scam	Annang, age 60, laundered money for scammers who lured victims into various online frauds. In some instances, the victims believed they were sending money to support an online romantic partner who falsely stated they needed to pay taxes and fees to release an inheritance or gold bars. www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/money-launderer-sentenced-48-months-and-ordered-pay-over-1-million-restitution	48 months' imprisonment; over \$1,000,000 restitution ordered	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Boakye et al.</i>	4:23cr31	Criminal	Romance Scam	Boakye, age 27, laundered money for other scammers who lured victims, some of which were older adults, into various online frauds. Some victims believed they were sending money to support an online romantic partner who falsely stated they needed to pay taxes and fees to release an inheritance. Other victims believed they were sending money to ship gold bars in which they had an interest to the United States. www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/money-launderer-sentenced-prison-role-online-scams	14 months' imprisonment; \$532,738 restitution ordered	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Feinberg</i>	CR18-1786-TUC-JAS	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Defendant engaged in investment fraud scheme.	60 months' imprisonment	Michael Feinberg
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Harbour</i>	CR19-00898-PHX-DLR(DMF)	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Defendant charged with investment fraud scheme resulting in \$8.3 million in losses to various victims.	Indictment; Sentenced 2/1/2024 to 96 months' imprisonment	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Walters</i>	23-cr-01158-SHR	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	A Jamaican scam in which defendant laundered fraud proceeds from 28 victims through her own and through family members' bank accounts in the amount of approximately \$312,010.	Convicted 7/11/2024	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Seales</i>	CR24-419-TUC-SHR	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Defendant acted as a money mule for an international tech support fraud conspiracy that targeted older victims. Generally, the scammers would create the false impression that there was some problem with the victims' computer, a banking issue such as an erroneous charge to the victim's account, or the victim's computer had been hacked. The scammers thereafter deceived the victims into sending money to "fix" the computer issue.	Indictment	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Sowerby</i>	CR-23-1757-PHX-SMB(ASB)	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Defendant engaged in a Ponzi type scheme through which he claimed victims could recoup their losses from a prior related case. Defendant misled victims to invest in individual cryptocurrency mining machines. The entire scheme was a fraud.	Indictment	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Jacoby</i>	CR21-00452-PHX-JJT	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Investment advisor scammed 5 victims, one of whom was an older person, suffering losses totaling \$1.69 million.	38 months' imprisonment	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Ighorhiohwunu</i>	CR21-1119-TUC-SHR	Criminal	Romance Scam	Defendant was an upper-level money mule who laundered proceeds for an international romance fraud scheme targeting vulnerable and older victims.	130 months' imprisonment	

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USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Diaz</i>	CR-24-04092-TUC-SHR	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor charged in investment fraud scheme against his older client, defrauding the victim out of approximately \$867,000. Defendant pleaded guilty and is pending sentencing. www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/former-morgan-stanley-financial-advisor-pleads-guilty-defrauding-his-elderly-client	Information; Pled guilty	
USAO Arizona	<i>U.S. v. Ibrahim</i>	4:23-cr-00030-TUC-JCH-BGM	Criminal	Romance Scam; Inheritance Scam	Co-conspirators tricked mostly older victims into sending money to bank accounts - including Ibrahim's - under the guise of claiming an inheritance of gold bars for the online girlfriend/boyfriend; Ghana-based; 7 victims sent \$261,452 to bank accounts controlled by this defendant. This is part of Operation Ghana Gold - one indictment of several and ongoing investigation into lead defendants in Ghana who ran the entire operation, that has uncovered over 200 victims and a total loss of \$21,563,760 to date.	Indictment; Convicted 9/7/2023; Sentenced 3/12/2024 to 12 months' imprisonment	
USAO Arkansas, Western	<i>U.S. v. Barger</i>	6:23-CR-60032	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Barger was a senior Wealth Management Officer with Relyance Bank. According to information received through the investigation, from 2014 through June 2020, Barger used her position to take upwards of \$800,000 from 25 Relyance bank trust accounts, mostly older adults and those with special needs. Barger appears to have used her position to print checks made payable to herself or her debtors.	Information; Convicted 10/31/2023	
USAO Arkansas, Western	<i>U.S. v. Blisard</i>	3:23-CR-30007	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Employee at a retirement village where the victim lived used the victim's debit card to purchase over \$100,000 worth of clothes, food and other various items.	Convicted 6/5/2024	
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. McDonagh et al.</i>	8:22cr56	Criminal	Timeshare or Timeshare Resale Scam	From 2015 to May 2019, "openers" who worked for the McDonagh-controlled telemarketing companies contacted timeshare owners and offered to help them terminate their timeshare interest for a fixed fee. If the timeshare owner expressed interest in the telemarketing companies' services, the call was transferred to a "closer" who convinced victims to sign contracts with the telemarketing companies to get them out of their timeshare for a "one-time fee." Victims were contacted again and told a series of lies to induce them to pay more money. www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/lead-defendant-multimillion-dollar-boiler-room-scam-targeted-timeshare-owners	121 months' imprisonment; \$5,469,271 restitution ordered	Antonio Duarte, Christopher James Vannoy, Ruben Ortiz
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Fagon et al.</i>	2:23cr600	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam; Identity Theft	Fagon, age 45, allegedly was a manager of money mules, including co-defendant Jackson, age 42, who also recruited his own money mules. Jackson and Fagon laundered funds obtained from victims of grandparent scams. Fagon created business entities and opened bank accounts using information stolen from identity theft victims. www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/two-indicted-scheme-allegedly-laundered-over-2-million-generated-grandparent-scams	Indictment	James Wesley Jackson III, aka "Imperial"
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Bai</i>	2:20cr621	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Through a variety of fraud schemes, Bai, age 35, Hu, age 28, and Shi, age 29, laundered proceeds of transnational scams by convincing victims to purchase Target gift cards, and then had victims provide the card numbers and access codes to the fraudsters. www.justice.gov/opa/pr/los-angeles-trio-sentenced-laundering-gift-cards-purchased-victims-telephone-scams	Bai, Hu, Shi: 180, 120, and 96 months' imprisonment, respectively	

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USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Su</i>	2:24-cr-00387-SPG	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Su was arrested at the victims' Encino residence when he showed up to retrieve \$35,000 from the two older victims who had already paid the fraudsters \$25,000 in cash. According to the affidavit in support of the criminal complaint, Su is part of a scheme that included a computer virus, callers pretending to help the victims, and two other people who masqueraded as federal agents. www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/west-covina-man-arrested-allegedly-attempting-pick-money-elderly-victims-who-were	Indictment	
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Smith</i>	5:20cr120/5:20mj269	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Smith Sr., age 59, obtained money from investors by soliciting individuals – who often were older or retired – to invest in something Smith called “Northstar.” Smith never invested the money. Instead, Smith deposited all investor funds into a non-interest-bearing checking account. www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/moreno-valley-man-pleads-guilty-running-ponzi-scheme-took-more-24-million-hundreds	Pled guilty	
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Gasca et al.</i>	2:21cr351	Criminal	Violence; Romance Scam	Gasca, age 53, kidnapped and financially exploited the victim's mental fragility – describing his supposed 'girlfriend' as 'senile' and describing the victim to a friend as a “Golden goose” – to steal tens of thousands of dollars from her. The victim was receiving care for dementia. (www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/new-york-city-man-sentenced-nearly-26-years-prison-abducting-elderly-woman-dementia)	310 months' imprisonment	
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Barber</i>	8:21cr196	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Barber participated in two schemes to defraud victim investors out of their money and property, for example, investing in flipping real estate and real estate development, and promising investors – at least five of whom were older and/or vulnerable adults – returns of up to 10%. www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/orange-county-man-pleads-guilty-running-investment-scams-raised-more-17-million-false	Pled guilty	Louis Zimmerle
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Nguyen et al.</i>	8:23cr106	Criminal	Identity Theft	Thao Thi Kim Nguyen, age 47, and Nghiep Chinh Nguyen, age 55, allegedly fraudulently obtained more than \$2 million by stealing the identities of homeowners – primarily older Vietnamese Americans. At the bank, Nghiep Nguyen and other co-schemers posed as the victim homeowners – whose identities they allegedly had stolen – and forged the victims' signatures to fraudulently obtain cash-out mortgages on the victim-owned properties, which otherwise were unencumbered. www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/orange-county-woman-and-man-charged-running-22-million-scheme-tricked-banks-cashing	Indictment	
USAO California, Central	<i>U.S. v. Farole et al.</i>	2:23cr337	Criminal	Timeshare or Timeshare Resale Scam	Dragunov, age 44, and his co-conspirator allegedly targeted primarily older victims by inducing them to enter into agreements with the defendants' telemarketing companies by falsely representing that the telemarketing companies would assist the victims with selling or renting their timeshare properties for a “one time” advertising fee. However, no victim received the timeshare-related services or proceeds as promised. www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/west-la-man-charged-running-decade-long-45-million-timeshare-telemarketing-scheme	Indictment	Christopher Michael Lang

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USAO California, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Altoh</i>	2:24-cr-00030-JAM	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam	In February 2024, the Eastern District of California (EDCA) charged two defendants in <i>U.S. v. Alex Altoh and Oumar Sidibe</i> with money laundering conspiracy. Both defendants, one who was arrested in the EDCA and one who is a fugitive in Mali, were charged with conspiring to launder \$3.9 million in fraud proceeds related to two separate business email compromise schemes.	Indictment	Oumar Sidibe
USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Pates</i>	20cr2204-CAB	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Defendant used straw borrowers to get bank loans under false pretenses. He told the borrowers that they were investing in a business together and promised that the loans would be paid from proceeds of the investments. Most of the straw borrowers were older individuals recruited through two different churches in the community. www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/san-diego-man-sentenced-41-months-bank-tax-fraud-schemes	Convicted 12/4/2023; Sentenced to 41 months' imprisonment	
USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Alexander</i>	23cr1460-BTM	Criminal	Identity Theft; Mail Theft	Former homeless center employee devised a scheme to steal government checks sent to unhoused individuals receiving their mail at the Center. www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/former-homeless-center-employee-admits-stealing-more-70000-government-checks-intended	Information; Convicted 7/20/2023; Sentenced 2/8/2024 to 15 months' imprisonment	
USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Abordo</i>	22-cr-00101-BLW-KJN	Criminal	Identity Theft; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Defendant forged the signature of a U.S. District Judge to create a phony court order to convince an older victim that he had used his legal expertise to prevent the foreclosure of her home. www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/man-sentenced-40-months-prison-stealing-chief-federal-judges-identity-and-forging	Indictment; Convicted 10/17/2023; Sentenced 3/18/2024 to 40 months' imprisonment	
USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Arias</i>	22-cr-2745-JO	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	Defendant was a money launderer for a criminal organization. Unindicted co-conspirators in Costa Rica called victims in the United States using spoofed phone numbers and pretended to be representatives of the U.S. government. Fraudsters claimed the victims won an award or prize and needed to pay fees or taxes to release the winnings. Victims were told to mail the checks or cash to defendant's California residence. Defendant deposited the fraud proceeds into his own bank accounts and later wired a portion to co-conspirators.	Indictment; Convicted 3/12/2024	
USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Ramirez</i>	22-cr-2264-BAS	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Between 2018 and 2022, Ramirez and his company, JMJ Capital Group (JMJ), obtained more than \$8.1 million from dozens of investors and caused more than \$5.4 million in losses through his scheme and misrepresentations. The victim with the largest individual loss was an older adult who lost approximately \$1.4 million.	Indictment; Convicted 8/22/2023; Sentenced 1/23/2024 to 90 months' imprisonment	
USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Liu</i>	3:24mj1929	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Jiaci Liu allegedly was engaged in a multinational fraud conspiracy targeting older adults. www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/man-charged-scams-targeting-seniors-0	Indictment	
USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Ghiocel et al.</i>	3:23cr650/3:23mj474	Criminal	Theft	Eduard and Floarea Ghiocel admitted wiring proceeds from the jewelry thefts occurring in communities with high older adult populations and the unemployment insurance fraud to Romania, as well as using the proceeds to purchase gold bars, gold coins, and high-end luxury vehicles from locations in Southern California and shipping these items to Romania. www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/married-couple-sentenced-laundering-14-million-proceeds-jewelry-thefts-and	Eduard and Floarea Ghiocel: 36 months' and 30 months' imprisonment, respectively; forfeit proceeds to pay restitution	Gabriel Ghiocel, Marius Ghiocel, Larisa Ghiocel, Argentina Alexandru

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USAO California, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Sun</i>	3:24mj15 02	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Sun, age 35, faces charges that he participated in a multinational fraud conspiracy that targeted a 70-year-old retiree from Carlsbad who was tricked initially by a tech support fraud scheme into handing over \$1.335 million. www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/man-charged-149-million-scam-involving-bitcoin-atm-deposits-and-bulk-gold-purchases	Indictment	
USAO Colorado	<i>U.S. v. Reger</i>	1:21cr192	Criminal	Sale to Fraudsters of Targeted Lists of Names and Addresses; Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Reger, age 57, and Lytle, age 64, a former senior executive and a former sales manager of Epsilon Data Management LLC (Epsilon), respectively, participated in a scheme that knowingly sold targeted lists of consumer names and their addresses to perpetrators of fraud schemes, knowing that their fraudster clients were targeting older and vulnerable people. The scheme involved the sending of false and deceptive mail to consumers over the course of 10 years. https://www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/former-senior-executive-and-former-sales-manager-convicted-selling-data-millions-us	5/31/2024 Guilty verdict	
USAO Colorado	<i>U.S. v. Jani</i>	22-cr- 202-RM	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Jani, age 40, was part of a conspiracy to launder funds obtained from a government official imposter scheme. Victims in the United States were contacted by telephone and coerced into believing they were under investigation by “Agents” of federal law enforcement agencies (the FBI, SSA, DHS, Treasury, or U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration) and that the only way to avoid arrest and/or deportation was to pay the “Government” large sums of money. www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/indian-national-sentenced-10-years-federal-prison-money-laundering-conspiracy	120 months' imprisonment; \$1,163,947.28 restitution ordered	James Albert Witte
USAO Colorado	<i>U.S. v. Edokpaigbe</i>	23-cr- 442-RMR	Criminal	Identity Theft; COVID-19-Related Fraud	Edokpaigbe was a member of a multi-state fraud ring that used hundreds of stolen identities and fictitious entities to obtain over \$1 million in fraudulent benefits through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. The ring also attempted to submit hundreds of fraudulent tax-refund claims using these same stolen identities and engaged in unemployment insurance fraud across multiple states. Many of the victims were older adults.	Indictment	
USAO Connecticut	<i>U.S. v. McNeilly</i>	3:24cr120	Criminal	Romance Scam	McNeilly, age 55, exchanged more than \$1 million in U.S. currency for cryptocurrency on behalf of customers throughout the United States. McNeilly knew that some of the funds involved in his illegal business were derived from fraud schemes, and the investigation revealed that cashiers checks from victims, some of whom were older adults, of romance fraud schemes were mailed to Global Income Marketplace LLC (GIM) (an unlicensed money transmitting business) and deposited into GIM accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/new-haven-man-charged-operating-illegal-money-transmitting-business	Indictment	

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USAO Connecticut	<i>U.S. v. Horvath</i>	3:23cr132	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Horvath, age 73, defrauded several clients by advising them that they could achieve better rates of return through alternative investments, rather than their existing annuity contracts, and that he could broker and manage those investments for them. Instead, Horvath commingled the victim-investors' funds with his own and used the pooled money to pay personal expenses and repay earlier victim-investors. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/bristol-man-sentenced-prison-fraud-and-tax-offenses	34 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release	
USAO Connecticut	<i>U.S. v. Coleman</i>	3:24cr36	Criminal	Theft or Fraud by a Handyman	Coleman, age 44, was doing odd jobs for a retired woman and began to steal checks, forge checks, and transfer funds from the victim's account into other accounts for personal use. www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/new-york-man-admits-role-theft-retired-womans-bank-account	Pled guilty	Gregory Ivy, Lamont Bethea
USAO Connecticut	<i>U.S. v. Fasanella</i>	3:23cr135	Criminal	Romance Scam	Fasanella's role in the online scheme was to set up fraudulent bank accounts into which primarily older victims would deposit proceeds from fraudulent schemes. Fasanella, age 54, was a U.S. citizen residing in Venezuela. He and his associates used various online scams, including romance scams, to defraud dozens of primarily older victims of millions of dollars. www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/us-citizen-charged-federal-offenses-related-millions-stolen-victims-online-scams	Indictment	
USAO Connecticut	<i>U.S. v. Chambers</i>	3:23cr174	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	Chambers, age 32, and others used a sweepstakes scheme to induce primarily older victims across the country to provide them with money. As part of this scheme, scammers notified victims, typically by telephone, that they won a Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes, fraudulently stating that the victims were required by law to pay taxes on their winnings. www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/jamaican-national-indicted-sweepstakes-scheme-targeting-elderly-victims	Indictment	
USAO Delaware	<i>U.S. v. Lawal et al.</i>	22-cr-11	Criminal	Romance Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam	Lawal, age 33, worked directly with the Nigeria-based leader of an international criminal organization that defrauded individuals and businesses across the United States out of millions of dollars through sophisticated internet-based fraud schemes, including romance fraud and business email compromise schemes. The criminal organization frequently targeted older victims who believed they had fallen in love with people they had met on the internet. www.justice.gov/opa/pr/foreign-national-sentenced-conspiring-laundry-proceeds-internet-fraud-schemes	Guilty verdict; 121 months' imprisonment; \$1,460,000 restitution ordered	Michael Hermann, Rita Assane, Dwight Baines
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Laird et al.</i>	1:24cr174	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement; Government Benefits Fraud	Laird, age 59, and Blizzard, age 80, conspired and engaged in a scheme to deceive the Superior Court of the District of Columbia into appointing them as co-guardians and co-conservators of a vulnerable adult residing in a nursing home. Laird and Blizzard used their authority to redirect Social Security benefits to themselves and obtained funds directly from the older victim's bank account, funds which were used for their personal benefit and were not used to pay for the older adult's care. www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/father-and-daughter-charged-fraud-scheme-allegedly-exploited-vulnerable-adult	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Thomas</i>	CF2 008596	Criminal	Violence	Thomas, age 57, pushed a skilled nursing facility resident from his wheelchair, where the resident lay helpless for several minutes without assistance from the defendant. www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/former-employee-skilled-nursing-facility-sentenced-criminal-abuse-vulnerable-adult	180 days in jail, suspended; 18 months supervised probation, mental health and drug treatment services; \$50 payment to the Victims of Violent Crimes Fund	
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Adams</i>	CF3 001114	Criminal	Violence	Adams, 35, approached two older adults, then 78-year-old John Hopkins and then 79-year-old Claudia Hopkins, outside of a grocery store asking for five dollars. When Mr. Hopkins gave the defendant one dollar, the defendant declared, "That is not enough!" and began attacking Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins. www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/district-man-sentenced-eight-years-prison-aggravated-assault-senior-citizen	Pled guilty; 96 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Rosborough</i>	CF3 001303	Criminal	Violence	After earlier in the day assaulting a homeless resident with a tire iron, Rosborough, age 32, was on a metro train headed for the Gallery Place – Chinatown station. He approached an older couple with their three minor grandchildren visiting from out of town. He got into their faces, unprovoked, and began yelling profanities at them. The 78-year-old grandfather put his hand on the defendant's arm and said, "Back off pal." The defendant then assaulted the man, punching him, pulling him to the floor, and kicking him. This assault caused the victim to require multiple knee-drains and eventually surgery to his knee. www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/district-man-sentenced-6-year-prison-term-assaulting-homeless-man-tire-iron-and	78 months' imprisonment	
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Barry</i>	CF3 004721	Criminal	Violence	Barry, age 25, was a Direct Support professional for a residential care facility. Barry provided care to a vulnerable adult, who is non-verbal, autistic, and unable to care for himself. Instead of going to various community outings, Barry used the Community Options van to make food deliveries with the vulnerable adult. While making the final delivery, Barry exited the vehicle and left the vulnerable adult unattended. After the delivery was completed, Barry observed a masked individual steal the vehicle while the vulnerable adult was still inside the van. During his initial call to 911, and on subsequent inquiries, Barry failed to mention that the vulnerable adult was in the stolen vehicle. www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/former-employee-care-facility-sentenced-criminal-negligence-vulnerable-adult	180 days in jail, with a portion of that time suspended; 14 months supervised probation; 90 hours of community service; prohibition against working with anyone who cannot care for themselves	
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Smith</i>	CF2 002350	Criminal	Theft or Fraud by Handyman	Smith, who worked as a property manager at several residential buildings for older adults in Washington, D.C., targeted two older residents living with cognitive impairment to steal thousands of dollars from their accounts and other sources of income after befriending them and gaining their trust. www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/property-manager-senior-residential-buildings-pleads-guilty-financial-exploitation-two	Pled guilty	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Lawal</i>	24-cr-149	Criminal	Government Benefits Fraud	D.C. woman and Maryland man conspired to launder both stolen government SSA benefit funds intended for Social Security recipients as well as additional stolen government funds derived from a scheme in which conspirators caused the money to be directed to accounts controlled by the co-conspirators. They either used the stolen funds for their personal use or further transferred the stolen funds to others without authority from the intended recipients.	Indictment	
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Sibert</i>	20-cr-130	Criminal	Charity Scam	Sibert and his co-conspirator duped victims into mailing thousands of small dollar check "donations" to their bogus charities.	Information; Convicted 7/29/2020; Sentenced 2/13/2024 to 1 month imprisonment	
USAO District of Columbia	<i>U.S. v. Trankle</i>	21-CR-675	Criminal	Charity Scam	Defendant created fake charities, solicited donations, and then used the donations for his own personal benefit. Trankle, age 55, concealed his scheme under the guise of operating a church from his office in Maryland. www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/maryland-man-sentenced-five-years-scheme-bilked-benevolent-donors-charitable	Convicted 5/15/2023; 60 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; \$204,561 restitution ordered; \$135,327 forfeiture	Stephen Sibert
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Delapena</i>	6:23-cr-190	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	The victim, an attorney, hired the defendant to work at his law firm as a paralegal. The defendant embezzled money from the victim, and her fraud centered on directly re-routing checks from clients of the law firm to accounts the defendant controlled, transferring PayPal client payments from the law firm's PayPal account to PayPal accounts the defendant controlled, and transferring funds from the law firm's corporate accounts into Wells Fargo business accounts the defendant controlled.	Indictment	
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Fletcher</i>	8:24-cr-233-WFJ	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Fletcher was a money mule in a government imposter scheme targeting older adults, with losses around \$250,000. He impersonated a bail bondsman to obtain victim funds.	Indictment	
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Patel, Pranav</i>	8:23-cr-468	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Patel served as a money mule for a government impersonation scam targeting older adults, with proceeds totaling \$850,000.	Indictment	
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Patel, Swetaben</i>	8:24-cr-306-VMC-AAS	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Patel served as a money mule for a government impersonation scam targeting older adults, with proceeds totaling \$850,000.	Indictment	
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Patel, Viraj</i>	8:24-cr-252-SDM-SPF	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Patel acted as a money mule in a money laundering conspiracy. Patel obtained money from fraud victims who believed their bank accounts and identities had been compromised and that they needed to pay to remedy and investigate the matters.	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Wasserman et al.</i>	8:20cr207	Criminal	Investment Fraud; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Wasserman, age 67, a former lawyer and licensed insurance agent, and his co-conspirator Kenneth Rossman, a Florida certified public accountant and licensed insurance agent, made false and fraudulent misrepresentations and concealed material information in order to convince older victim-investors to put their money into Wasserman's new insurance venture, "FastLife", operating as a Ponzi scheme. www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/insurance-agent-sentenced-15-years-federal-prison-defrauding-elderly-investors-and-tax	Convicted 5/15/2023; 180 months' imprisonment; \$6,318,299.75 forfeiture	Kenneth Rossman
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Zerillo</i>	8:23-cr-253-TPB-AAS	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud; Embezzlement	Zerillo, age 49, a general manager of a non-profit that provided HVAC, appliance, and plumbing repair services to members of a senior citizen residential community, embezzled more than \$400,000 from the non-profit by creating false and fraudulent bank statements and destroying records. Zerillo spent the money on personal expenses, including luxury vacations. www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/riverview-woman-sentenced-embezzling-400000-senior-citizens	Information; 18 months' imprisonment; \$410,963.78 forfeiture	
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Vekaria</i>	8:23cr40	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Vekaria, age 30, laundered money that had been extorted from victims, many of whom were older adults, in the United States. Specifically, Vekaria acted as an intermediary between other U.S.-based conspirators who had a direct line of communication to the foreign call centers and the "runners" who received and cashed the victims' checks. The India-based conspirators working in call centers placed calls to U.S. residents. The conspirators falsely and fraudulently identified themselves as federal law enforcement officers, such as Social Security Administration officials, FBI agents, or IRS officers. www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/indian-national-sentenced-money-laundering-conspiracy-related-government-impersonator	51 months' imprisonment; \$372,000 forfeiture	
USAO Florida, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Durbon et al.</i>	2:23cr24	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Durbon, age 58, and her daughter, Lukasik, were hired as caretakers for a 92-year-old victim. In October 2017, Durbon began unlawfully accessing the older victim's investment accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/cape-coral-caretakers-sentenced-federal-prison-stealing-more-half-million-dollars	Durbon: 120 months' imprisonment. Lukasik: 24 months' imprisonment. Both defendants forfeit Cape Coral residence, two vehicles, and approximately \$542,760.23	
USAO Florida, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Brown</i>	4:24cr17	Criminal	Identity Theft	Defendant was part of a group who stole an older victim's car. The victim kept her checkbook in her car, and after she reported the vehicle theft, learned that several of her checks were fraudulently written to the defendant and negotiated at multiple banks over several days.	Indictment; Convicted 6/18/2024; Sentenced 8/30/2024 to 24 months' imprisonment	
USAO Florida, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Vargas</i>	4:24cr12/RH	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Five defendants engaged in an embezzlement scheme spearheaded by an employee of a retirement benefits company whose customers are retired public school teachers. Three of the defendants were also charged with money laundering conspiracy and money laundering relating to their financial transactions with the fraud proceeds, which are alleged to have been sent back to the defendants at the top.	Indictment	Lambert Aguebor

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Florida, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Alhassan</i>	4:24cr10/MW	Criminal	Investment Fraud; Romance Scam	Three defendants charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and operation of unlicensed money transmitting business in connection with a Ghana-based romance/investment scheme targeting older victims across the United States. Two of the three defendants served as money mules who received the proceeds of the scam and transmitted some of the funds back to the Ghana participants.	Indictment	Shawn Smith
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Oleh</i>	23-20399-Cr-Bloom	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam	As part of a business email compromise scam targeting small businesses, the two defendants charged in this indictment, Oleh and Gordon, managed the money mules.	Indictment	Nevordo Gordon
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Gonzalez</i>	23-20467-Cr-Martinez	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam	As part of a business email compromise scam targeting small businesses, Daphne Gonzalez was the girlfriend of the leader of the scheme (the charging document of the leader is under seal). Other co-conspirators, Collins Oleh and Nevordo Gordon, who managed the mules, were charged in a separate case.	Information; Convicted 1/24/2024; Sentenced 4/26/2024 to 46 months' imprisonment	
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Abdo</i>	23-cr-80209-DSL	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Abdo, Titanium Capital's founder and manager, advertised Titanium as an investment fund that operated a proprietary multi-currency foreign-exchange platform. Titanium solicited investors, including older investors, by guaranteeing a fixed rate of return of 15%. In fact, Abdo diverted investor funds by paying existing investors using new investor funds. Abdo also misappropriated investor funds to pay his personal expenses, including food, hotels, travel, and clothing. www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/lebanese-citizen-charged-operating-5-million-ponzi-scheme-through-his-foreign-exchange	Indictment	
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Gary</i>	24-60043-Cr-Smith	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Victim couple was defrauded by a "spoofing" scam, in which an unidentified co-conspirator called them, represented himself to be a fraud prevention employee with their bank, and persuaded them into providing their online banking password to protect themselves. Soon after, \$100,000 was wired from the victims and to the defendant's account, which he quickly withdrew and spent.	Indictment	
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Zayas</i>	22-cr-20289	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Phone caller told 87-year-old victim he was her grandson and needed \$25,000 because he had been in a car accident in Miami. The victim wired \$25,000 to defendant's bank account. Defendant then withdrew nearly all the money in three separate withdrawals at three different branch locations within less than 24 hours of the wire coming into his bank account.	Indictment; Convicted 11/1/2023; Sentenced 1/12/2024 to 12 months' imprisonment	
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Gonzalez</i>	20-20215-Cr-Grahams	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Money mule money laundering scheme led by Michael Gonzalez. Approximately 20 interviewed victims thought they were sending funds for online marketplace purchases and bookings, which the victims never received. www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/us-attorneys-office-and-law-enforcement-partners-take-action-against-money-mules-order	Superseding Indictment; Convicted 6/25/2024	Jose Manuel Samame, Leonardo Villa Lazo
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Johnson</i>	23-20247-Cr-KMW	Criminal	Identity Theft	Paula Johnson stole the identities of other persons named Paula Johnson across the country, along with others. The victim here is another person named Paula Johnson whose identity the defendant used to take out credit cards.	Indictment; Convicted 1/2/2024; Sentenced 6/12/2024 to 40 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Diaz et al.</i>	22-cr-20354	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement; Identity Theft	Diaz, age 45, was a private duty health aide who worked with a home health aide agency. The agency provided home health aides to residents at senior communities in Miami-Dade County. From May to June 2020, Aislady Diaz stole the personally identifiable information of two older residents under her care. Diaz then shared that information with her daughter and other individuals. www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/final-two-defendants-mother-and-daughter-were-sentenced-prison-their-involvement-elder	Guilty verdict; 52 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	Yainelis Perez Diaz, Yandys Diaz, Rodriguez Fonseca
USAO Florida, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Clarke et al.</i>	0:24cr60023	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	Clarke, age 28, and Hudson, age 33, were allegedly engaged in laundering proceeds from a criminal enterprise involving a lottery scam that targeted older victims throughout the United States. www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/man-and-woman-charged-elder-fraud-conspiracy	Indictment	
USAO Georgia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Kinmont/U.S. v. Wenz</i>	1:21cr173 and 1:21cr80	Criminal	Timeshare or Timeshare Resale Scam	Jess Kinmont, age 57, and John P. Wenz, Jr., age 43, have been sentenced for operating a timeshare resale scam business that affected more than 8,000 victims nationwide, many of them older adults. The victims lost more than \$18 million based on the defendants' false promises that they could help timeshare owners sell or rent their timeshare properties. www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/owners-timeshare-resale-company-sentenced-federal-prison-defrauding-over-8000-victims	Kinmont: 84 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$11,699,376.60 restitution ordered. Wenz, Jr.: 46 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$4,845,425.88 restitution ordered.	
USAO Georgia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Ogiekpolor</i>	1:22cr16	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam	Ogiekpolor was involved in a multi-year money laundering conspiracy in which Ogiekpolor and other co-conspirators received and laundered over \$10 million in fraud proceeds from business email compromise scams, romance scams, and other online frauds. Approximately a dozen victims, including several romance fraud victims, testified at his trial. In addition to Ogiekpolor, five other individuals pleaded guilty and cooperated in the investigation. www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/georgia-man-who-laundered-millions-romance-scams-business-email-compromises-and-other	300 months' imprisonment	
USAO Georgia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Salas</i>	1:21cr451	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	The defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced for his involvement in a wire scheme that defrauded U.S. victims via government imposter phone scams. The Defendant opened bank accounts and received defrauded victims' money into those accounts.	51 months' imprisonment	
USAO Georgia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Odekhiran</i>	1:21-cr-391	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam	Odekhiran was convicted for his role in receiving and laundering fraud proceeds from business email compromise scams, romance frauds, and other schemes.	60 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Georgia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Mullings</i>	1:22cr60	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam	Mullings, age 31, opened 20 bank accounts in the name of a sham company, The Mullings Group LLC. Mullings used those accounts to launder millions of dollars of fraud proceeds generated by business email compromise schemes targeting, among others, a health care benefit program and private companies, and romance fraud scams targeting numerous individual victims, several of whom were older adults. www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/man-sentenced-laundering-over-45m-obtained-business-email-compromise-and-romance-fraud	120 months' imprisonment	
USAO Georgia, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Logan</i>	1:22-cr-00108-JRH-BKE	Criminal	Identity Theft	Between July and August 2020, nearly \$500,000 was fraudulently stolen from a SunTrust Bank account owned by an older woman and her daughter. Two of the accounts, into which the majority of the funds (\$450,100) were deposited were in the name of "Alphonso Baugh," a real person, but were being operated by Logan, using the money to fund, among other things, jewelry purchases, vacations, and a lift kit for his truck. Logan further had stolen approximately \$100,000 from an older couple's bank accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-sdga/pr/guilty-plea-bank-fraud-sends-georgia-man-federal-prison	Indictment; Convicted 5/3/2023; Sentenced 10/4/2023 to 51 months' imprisonment	
USAO Georgia, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Waldron</i>	5-23-cr-9	Criminal	COVID-19-Related Fraud	Defendant fraudulently obtained over a million dollars in SBA loans. Almost \$23,000 was obtained by claiming his 85-year-old mother who suffers from dementia is a 1099 employee. www.justice.gov/usao-sdga/pr/coffee-county-man-sentenced-federal-prison-illegally-obtaining-covid-19-pandemic	Convicted 11/27/2023; Sentenced 4/11/2024 to 15 months' imprisonment	
USAO Georgia, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Dobi</i>	2:23CR00019	Criminal	Embezzlement	Dobi, property manager of a family business realty company, stole money from the company through the personal collection of rents without passing them on to the company and allowing friends to stay at rental properties without the collection of payment.	Information; Convicted 5/14/2024; Sentenced 5/14/2024 to 33 months' imprisonment	
USAO Hawaii	<i>U.S. v. Dhaene</i>	CR No. 23-000200 LEK	Criminal	Identity Theft; Investment Fraud	Dhaene, age 19, and co-conspirators engaged in an investment fraud scheme in which multiple persons in Hawaii were solicited to invest money, based on false promises that the money would be placed in high return investment contracts supposedly guaranteed by a mainland wealth management firm and its partner. www.justice.gov/usao-hi/pr/four-individuals-arrested-investment-fraud-scheme-targeting-hawaii-residents	Superseding Indictment	Latifa Zanki Dhaene, Tim Dhaene, Sofyane Abid Dhaene
USAO Idaho	<i>U.S. v. Dougherty</i>	1:22cr168	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	James Dougherty, age 43, and his wife, Jessica Dougherty, age 42, moved into a building on the older victim's 46-acre ranch to ostensibly provide the victim with assistance with her ranch and horses in exchange for free rent. In late 2015, the victim's health deteriorated. During that time, James Dougherty gained control of the victim's finances, including being named as the victim's power of attorney for finances and transferred the ranch from the victim to a newly formed trust benefitting the Dougherty's. www.justice.gov/usao-id/pr/husband-and-wife-plead-guilty-wire-fraud-and-obstruction-justice-relating-defrauding	Pled guilty	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Illinois, Central	<i>U.S. v. Bradley</i>	1:20-cr-10018-JES-JEH-1	Criminal	Identity Theft	Bradley, age 37, engaged in a conspiracy to defraud and steal the identities of victims throughout the United States. The victims included an older woman from Galesburg who was suffering from dementia when Bradley stole her identity and credit. www.justice.gov/usao-cdil/pr/florida-woman-sentenced-more-16-years-prison-defrauding-elderly-galesburg-woman-and	198 months' imprisonment	
USAO Illinois, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Rosenbaum</i>	1:21cr239	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Rosenbaum, age 56, owned and operated Alexander & Rosenbaum Financial Group LLC, an insurance agency in Kenilworth, IL. Beginning in 2016, Rosenbaum collected more than \$1 million in annuity premiums from at least 18 clients, including friends and family members, for policies that he never purchased. www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/owner-suburban-chicago-insurance-agency-sentenced-seven-years-prison-swindling-more-1	84 months' imprisonment	
USAO Illinois, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Diamond</i>	1:17cr332	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud	Diamond, age 67, schemed with others to induce homeowners to unwittingly obtain reverse mortgage loans to pay for purported home repairs that Diamond offered to perform. Diamond and the co-schemers targeted older victims based on the amount of equity in their homes and their relative lack of financial sophistication. www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/chicago-businessman-pleads-guilty-federal-fraud-charge-connection-reverse-mortgage	Pled guilty	
USAO Illinois, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Caldwell</i>	1:24cr22	Criminal	Investment Fraud; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Caldwell, age 58, a senior financial advisor at a bank, from 2014 to 2023 solicited various bank clients, including older customers, to invest in her alleged movie productions, knowing that those funds would actually be used for her own personal benefit. www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/chicago-financial-advisor-charged-swindling-clients-out-nearly-15-million	Information	
USAO Illinois, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Augustine</i>	3:23cv3347	Civil	Romance Scam	Augustine, age 74, is facing a civil lawsuit for her alleged involvement as a money mule. She was recruited to participate in the scheme by an individual claiming to be an American working abroad who was in search of a romantic relationship. Augustine was warned by FBI to end the relationship, but instead continued to execute fraudulent financial transactions. www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/united-states-files-civil-lawsuit-against-waterloo-woman-alleged-wire-fraud	Government-Filed Civil Lawsuit	
USAO Illinois, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Patel, Nirav</i>	3:23cr30076	Criminal	Money Mule	Patel is charged with mail fraud, three counts of fraud by wire, radio, or television, and one count of eludes examination or inspection by immigration. Patel was acting as a money mule assisting foreign actors defrauding older U.S. victims across the Midwest.	Superseding Indictment	
USAO Illinois, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Patel, Ligneshkumar</i>	24-cr-30081	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	One defendant charged with one count of mail fraud and two counts of fraud by wire, radio, or television. The defendant called older victim pretending to be law enforcement and scammed the victim out of over \$200,000.	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Illinois, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Hill</i>	3:24cr30074	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement; Identity Theft	Hill worked as a CNA at University Nursing and Rehabilitation in Edwardsville from October 2022 through June 2023 and Meridian Village in Glen Carbon from August through November 2023. According to the indictment, Hill is accused of stealing her older patients' identification to fraudulently use their debit and credit cards without their consent to make personal purchases. www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/nursing-home-cna-facing-federal-charges-defrauding-elderly-patients	Indictment	
USAO Illinois, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Aboseada</i>	3:23cr30077	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Aboseada, age 38, convinced her grandmother to wire money into her bank account under false pretenses on at least 12 occasions between November 2021 and August 2022. www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/woman-pleads-guilty-federal-wire-fraud-charges-swindling-more-300000-her-grandmother	Indictment; Pled guilty	
USAO Indiana, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Trivedi</i>	1:21mj307, 1:21cr128	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Trivedi, age 41, defrauded multiple victims, including some older individuals, into sending cash to various locations, including Indianapolis via FedEx. Trivedi and his co-conspirators in the United States and India masqueraded as federal law enforcement agents and told the victims that their Social Security numbers had been found in connection with criminal activity, often narcotics trafficking. Trivedi tracked the packages of money sent by fraud victims to the fictitious recipients and picked them up at multiple FedEx locations. www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/pr/plainfield-man-sentenced-over-3-years-federal-prison-15-million-identity-theft-scheme	46 months' imprisonment	
USAO Indiana, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Simms</i>	1:22cr133	Criminal	Investment Fraud; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Simms advised victims, including older victims, to liquidate their traditional and long-term insurance investments, such as 401(k) retirement savings accounts and life insurance policies. He encouraged the victims to reinvest the funds with him at Brendanwood. In exchange, Simms told victims he would invest their money on their behalf and yield higher rates of return than their current investments. He directed them to deposit those liquidated funds into their personal bank accounts and wire transfer or make checks payable to Brendanwood. www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/pr/lebanon-insurance-broker-sentenced-over-seven-years-federal-prison-stealing-nearly-4	90 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	
USAO Iowa, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Adkins</i>	1:23cr66	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud	As a part of his scheme, Adkins, age 48, offered to provide construction services and materials to prospective customers of "Adkins Home Improvements LLC," including but not limited to victims of the derecho storm, including one older widow. Adkins provided estimates to his customers and demanded substantial advance deposits or downpayments before undertaking work on the projects, many projects which were delayed or never completed. www.justice.gov/usao-ndia/pr/cedar-rapids-contractor-sentenced-federal-prison-scamming-derecho-victims	48 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$192,770.72 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Iowa, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Girard</i>	3:23cr3015	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Girard, age 65, was designated power of attorney for an older person diagnosed with early onset dementia. Girard used his position as power of attorney to sign and issue unauthorized checks from the older victim's personal checking account for his own benefit, such as home improvement and home construction-related goods and services. www.justice.gov/usao-ndia/pr/minnesota-man-who-stole-149000-elderly-victim-power-attorney-sent-federal-prison	Sentenced 3/19/2024 to 4 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; \$115,171.40 restitution ordered; \$10,000 fine	
USAO Iowa, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Berg</i>	4:24-cr-028	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Berg, age 51, sold life insurance and annuities to older individuals and encouraged them to withdraw money and invest with him. The targeted individuals gave Berg over \$1.5 million that he used for personal expenses such as travel, jewelry and vehicles. www.justice.gov/usao-sdia/pr/waukee-man-pleads-guilty-wire-fraud-and-money-laundering	Indictment; Convicted 6/10/2024	
USAO Iowa, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Flaherty</i>	4:23cr61	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Flaherty, age 47, lied to his victims, almost all of whom were older adults, with the oldest being 93 years old, about numerous matters, including information about the returns and bonuses they could receive by investing with him, their ability to make penalty-free withdrawals of their funds, and the losses they could incur. Once his victims had "invested" with him, he continued to misrepresent and conceal information about the returns the victims were earning, the amount of money victims had invested, and the costs and penalties associated with the investments. www.justice.gov/usao-sdia/pr/clive-insurance-salesperson-sentenced-19-years-federal-prison-defrauding-elderly	Indictment; Convicted 11/29/2023; Sentenced 6/12/2024 to 216 months' imprisonment; additional 6 months for criminal contempt of court; over \$2,400,000 restitution ordered	
USAO Kansas	<i>U.S. v. Shaffer</i>	24-cr-20031	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	The defendant used her position within the bank to access accounts of older or deceased accountholders and made unauthorized transfers. To conceal her activity, she used personally identifiable information of an older account holder and a deceased account holder to open new accounts which held the funds from the unauthorized transfers.	Information	
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Trilogy Rehab Services LLC, dba Paragon Rehabilitation</i>	5:21-cv-191-DCR	Civil	False Claims Act	Defendants submitted or caused to be submitted false claims for occupational therapy services to residents of Thomson Hood Veterans Center, a state-run skilled nursing facility in Wilmore, KY. Specifically, relator alleges that her supervisor, who is also an occupational therapist (OT), falsely claimed that she provided OT services to residents on days she was not even in the building to render services, and that this resulted in the submission of false claims to federal programs, including Medicare Parts A and B and the VA.	Settlement for \$31,658.59	
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Fike</i>	5:24-CR-01	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Fike, age 56, was hired to manage finances and pay bills for Jane McCready, a 75-year-old former Kentucky resident. After becoming aware of some red flags, McCready's daughter reviewed the spending activity on McCready's credit cards and observed a number of unauthorized purchases, including charges for tuition at colleges at which Fike's children attend and a substantial number of internet merchandise purchases. Fike concealed these expenditures by doctoring QuickBooks reports and balance statements that she provided to McCready and her children as part of this arrangement. www.justice.gov/usao-edky/pr/clark-county-woman-sentenced-wire-fraud-and-aggravated-identity-theft	Information; Convicted 1/9/2024; Sentenced 9/4/2024 to 36 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Hall</i>	3:24-CR-06-GFVT	Criminal	Medication Theft	Staff at Heritage Hall Health and Rehabilitation Center reported seeing Ms. Hall enter the bathroom for an extended period of time and upon leaving, found the top of a bottle of morphine. Officers located Ms. Hall leaving the facility and conducted a traffic stop for failure to signal. Ms. Hall admitted to taking morphine from Heritage Hall and replacing the stolen bottles with water and blue food coloring, to resemble the real medication. She told officers she had been doing this since January. Officers recovered an abandoned backpack outside the facility containing seven syringes with a blue liquid medication and other medical supplies, as well as a tube of blue food coloring and used syringes. Ms. Hall confessed that the seven syringes contained morphine taken from Heritage Hall and that she had used morphine earlier on the shift. Additional investigation suggested Ms. Hall had given the tampered morphine replacement to three patients.	Indictment	
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Hettiarachchi</i>	5:23-CR-143-DCR	Criminal	Theft by Deception	In 2014-2015, Tracy Elton, a single, older woman with mental disabilities, was befriended by her dance instructor, Hettiarachchi. Learning Ms. Elton was the beneficiary of a substantial inheritance, Hettiarachchi began asking her for money for his daughter's schooling, illness, and other things. Ms. Elton also co-signed for a car loan for Mr. Hettiarachchi's wife and obtained a large business loan for Mr. Hettiarachchi to open his own dance studio and was under the impression that she was partial owner. She is not listed on any business documents as such.	Information; Convicted 1/29/2024; Sentenced 5/3/2024 to 3 years probation to run concurrently; \$393,998.87 Restitution ordered; \$200 assessment fee	
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Genay</i>	5:23-CR-49	Criminal	Sextortion	Tackett is the treasurer of a church in Georgetown. He began depositing large amounts of money from the church account into his own account at Central Bank, and then wiring it along with significant personal funds to Genay, who lives in Philadelphia. Genay is blackmailing Tackett, who is married with children, about sexual images Tackett sent to Genay.	Indictment; Convicted 9/5/2023; Sentenced 12/19/2023 to 22 months' imprisonment	
USAO Kentucky, Western	<i>U.S. v. Cabrera</i>	3:22-CR-00126-CHB	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	One defendant is charged with mail fraud conspiracy for his role in a grandparent scam where victims are urged to ship money to an alleged distressed grandchild or relative. The charged defendant picked up a package shipped to New York by a victim in Kentucky and is linked to other victims in a larger scheme, apparently based in New York.	Indictment; Convicted 2/22/2024; Sentenced 7/22/2024 to 14 months' imprisonment	
USAO Kentucky, Western	<i>U.S. v. Upton</i>	19-CR-00053-BJB	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Pastor and his wife took advantage of a parishioner.	Information; Convicted 7/20/2023	Cynthia Upton
USAO Louisiana, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Demers</i>	2:23cr115	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Fraud; Romance Scam	Demers, age 68, received \$8,600 from an out of state fraud victim on or about July 9, 2021. Rather than contact the authorities, Demers converted some of the funds to her own use and attempted to wire the funds to a person posing as an Internal Revenue Service agent. Demers acted as a middleman for a fraudster who directed financial fraud victims, some of whom were older adults, to send Demers money, which she would then convert to MoneyGrams, etc., and forward to the fraudster. www.justice.gov/usao-edla/pr/marrero-woman-sentenced-probation-misprision-felony	Sentenced 2/23/2024 to 18 months probation; \$200 restitution ordered; \$100 special assessment fee	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Louisiana, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Keel et al.</i>	2:22cr115 /2:22mj6 2	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Keel, age 53, was sentenced for his role in a nationwide elder fraud scheme in which Keel, and his co-conspirators, falsely represented themselves to be U.S. Department of Treasury agents, in order to defraud victims of their savings. Police were notified by the son of the 78-year-old, Victim A, who transferred approximately \$60,000 via Green Dot cards to the "agents." www.justice.gov/usao-edla/pr/florida-man-sentenced-10-years-prison-impersonating-federal-officers-nationwide-elder	Sentenced 10/25/2023 to 125 months' imprisonment; \$200 special assessment fee; restitution hearing forthcoming	
USAO Louisiana, Western	<i>U.S. v. Patel</i>	1:23-cr-00260	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Victim received a "pop-up" on his computer that claimed his identity had been compromised and directed him to contact a person who claimed that he was a federal agent with the FTC. This person directed the victim to obtain \$100,000 of gold and then deliver the bullion to the defendant for "safe keeping." The defendant accepted delivery of the gold.	Indictment	
USAO Louisiana, Western	<i>U.S. v. Glass</i>	5:24-cr-00087	Criminal	Identity Theft	The defendants worked for a telephone call center and gathered information about older bank customers with high account balances. The defendants used that account information to make counterfeit checks drawn on the victims accounts and used social media to recruit individuals to deposit these counterfeit checks into their accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/united-states-attorney-announces-return-indictment-charging-21-defendants-bank-fraud	Indictment	Sharmaine Jackson
USAO Louisiana, Western	<i>U.S. v. Glover-Wing et al.</i>	6:21cr312	Criminal	Health Care Fraud; Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Glover-Wing was the owner of Angel Care Hospice ("Angel Care"), a Louisiana corporation that purported to provide hospice services. However, over 24 patients were placed on hospice by Angel Care without meeting the criteria required by Medicare. During the time period that the older patients were on hospice and under the care and supervision of Angel Care, none of them had been diagnosed with a terminal condition. www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/hospice-care-company-owner-sentenced-health-care-fraud-charges	72 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$3,600,000 restitution ordered	
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Lawal</i>	1:23cr373	Criminal	Tax-Related Identity Theft	Lawal knowingly and willfully participated in and executed a stolen identity tax refund fraud scheme to obtain fraudulent tax refunds using the identities of older victims, then load those refunds onto debit cards tied to bank accounts opened in the victims' names, send those cards to secure known addresses throughout the United States, and finally withdraw those refunds in cash. www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/baltimore-man-pleads-guilty-access-device-fraud-and-aggravated-identity-theft	Pled guilty	
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Blizzard</i>	1:22cr138	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Blizzard, age 45, became the financial advisor of a 75-year-old man. Over time, Blizzard used the victim's blank signed checks for personal purposes. Blizzard also withdrew the older victim's funds, and deposited those funds into his own bank account, to use for his own purposes. www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/maryland-financial-advisor-sentenced-three-and-half-years-federal-prison-stealing	42 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Henry, Wayne</i>	1:24cr4	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Dwayne and Wayne Henry, age 32 and 34, respectively, and their co-conspirators contacted the victims by mail and over the phone and convinced them that they had won millions of dollars in a lottery or sweepstakes but were required to send payment in advance for taxes and other fees before they could receive their winnings. The defendants and other conspirators caused the victims, many of whom were older adults, to send payments for the purported taxes and other fees through wire transfer, by gift card, by sending cash, and by other payment methods. www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/two-landover-hills-brothers-indicted-alleged-lottery-scheme-defrauded-victims-more-35	Superseding Indictment	Dwayne Henry
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Ulysse et al.</i>	1:21cr54	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	January 2018 through November 2019, Avboraye-Ibginedion, age 28, was part of a conspiracy to defraud older victims by persuading them to send thousands of dollars in cash to members of the conspiracy, falsely stating that the money would be used to help the victims' relatives pay legal or other expenses for crimes and other incidents that had not actually occurred. Avboraye-Ibginedion's part in the scheme was to retrieve packages of cash sent by older victims and deliver the packages to a co-defendant. (https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/florida-man-sentenced-maryland-over-five-years-federal-prison-nationwide-scheme)	66 months' imprisonment; 1 year home confinement; 2 years supervised release; \$1,695,600 restitution ordered	Medard Ulysse
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Green et al.</i>	1:19cr567	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Charlemagne, age 35, was part of a conspiracy to defraud older victims by persuading them to send thousands of dollars in cash to members of the conspiracy by falsely stating that the money would be used to help the victims' relatives pay legal or other expenses in connection with crimes and other incidents that had not occurred. www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/florida-man-sentenced-more-three-years-federal-prison-his-role-scheme-scam-elderly	41 months' imprisonment; 1 year supervised release; \$1,866,745 restitution ordered	
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Warrior</i>	SAG-23-299	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Investment Fraud; Romance Scam	Ambrose Warrior is a witting money mule who transmitted proceeds of romance fraud and investment fraud. Warrior had direct contact with victims and processed more than \$500,000 of victim funds.	Superseding Indictment	
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Campbell</i>	24-cr-00004	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Nickoy Campbell, Dwane Henry, and Wayne Henry engaged in a lottery fraud scheme in which they sent victims solicitations and fake checks and received packages in the mail from victims containing cash as purported advance fees or taxes. www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/jamaican-national-indicted-alleged-lottery-scheme-defrauded-victims-more-95-million	Superseding Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Maryland	<i>U.S. v. Britton-Harr</i>	1:23-cv-01921-ELH	Civil	False Claims Act; COVID-19-Related Fraud	Defendant Patrick Britton-Harr owned and operated Provista Health LLC, as well as multiple other corporate entities that sought to profit from the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic by offering COVID-19 tests to nursing homes as a way to bill Medicare for a wide array of medically unnecessary respiratory pathogen panel (RPP) tests. These RPP tests were not medically necessary because the beneficiaries had no symptoms of a respiratory illness and because the tests were for uncommon respiratory pathogens. Additionally, Britton-Harr and Provista Health submitted claims for RPP tests that were never ordered by physicians and sometimes for RPP tests that were never performed, including over 300 claims that stated that the nasal swab test sample was supposedly collected from the beneficiary on a date after the beneficiary had died. www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/united-states-obtains-26-million-false-claims-act-judgments-against-laboratory-companies	Monetary Judgement of \$26,341,951.38	
USAO Massachusetts	<i>U.S. v. Omoruyi et al.</i>	1:21cr10217	Criminal	Romance Scam	Omoruyi, age 37, and Omoruyi, age 36, conspired with others to launder the proceeds of multiple illegal schemes, many of which targeted older adults. www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/two-men-sentenced-international-money-laundering-and-bank-fraud-scheme	Omoruyi: 78 months' imprisonment. Omoruyi: 72 months' imprisonment.	
USAO Massachusetts	<i>U.S. v. Osawaru</i>	1:20cr10209	Criminal	Romance Scam; COVID-19-Related Fraud	Osawaru, age 30, participated in a series of romance, pandemic unemployment insurance, and other online scams designed to defraud victims by convincing them to send money to accounts controlled by the defendants. www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/man-sentenced-defrauding-hundreds-victims-online	6 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; \$1,340,516 restitution and forfeiture ordered	Nosayamen Iyalekhue
USAO Michigan, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Beard</i>	5:23-cr-20298-JEL-KGA	Criminal	Fine Art Fraud	One defendant, the former owner of a local art gallery, pleaded guilty to wire fraud in connection with a years-long fine art consignment fraud that primarily victimized older photograph collectors. The government believes the losses exceed \$3.5 million across more than 30 victims.	Criminal Complaint; Information; Convicted 7/13/2023	
USAO Michigan, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Ogunghide</i>	2:22-cr-20323-GAD-DRG	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam	One defendant was convicted of money laundering (18/1957) in connection with the receipt and later disbursement of over \$1 million in funds derived from a combination of business email compromise scams and two separate romance scams involving older female victims.	Indictment; Convicted 1/17/2024	
USAO Michigan, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Halbani</i>	2:14-cr-20599-SJM-RSW	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Twenty defendants were convicted for their role in a massive real estate investment scam that involved more than 2000 properties and spanned more than five years, victimizing nearly 300 people (disproportionately impacting older adults) and causing losses of at least \$19 million. www.justice.gov/usao-edmi/pr/leader-real-estate-telemarketing-fraud-scheme-defrauded-investors-over-19-million	Sentenced 2/22/2024 to 48 months' imprisonment	Antwan Reid
USAO Michigan, Western	<i>U.S. v. Gill</i>	1:23-CR-156	Criminal	Telemarketing Scam	Between at least June 2018 and March 2022, Gill age 62, operated seven fake companies that purported to offer cable and satellite television upgrades and subscription discounts. Calls targeting older victims originated from a call center in Lahore, Pakistan. Victims were instructed to mail payments or send credit card information to Gill in the United States, and specifically in Portage, MI.	Indictment; Convicted 7/11/2024	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Michigan, Western	<i>U.S. v. Okunola et al.</i>	1:23-CR-148	Criminal	Romance Scam	Okunola, age 37, Adeola, age 33, Adeola, age 35, and McDougal, age 32, conspired with individuals primarily in Nigeria to defraud individuals in the United States, many that were older or particularly vulnerable, through a variety of fraud schemes using interstate wire transmissions or the mail system. Defendants asked for money for a variety of reasons once relationships were established. Payments were made to P.O. boxes, bank accounts in the names of shell companies, and through online money transfer services.	Indictment; Convicted 7/31/2024	
USAO Michigan, Western	<i>U.S. v. Patel et al.</i>	1:23cr87	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Business Impersonation Scam	White, age 29, and McNamara, age 28, were two of seven defendants (Patel, Thibou, Panchal, Shetty, White, Jackson, McNamara) charged last year with conspiracy to commit wire fraud. The fraud scheme targeting older adults began when victims received a message on their computers warning that a virus had infected their devices and to call a number for help. The "help" claimed to work for a tech company, such as Microsoft or Apple, but were scammers located in India. www.justice.gov/usaowdmi/pr/2024_0517_McNamara_White_Sentenced	White: 97 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$3,224,549 restitution ordered. McNamara: 51 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$693,073 restitution ordered.	
USAO Minnesota	<i>U.S. v. Wilson</i>	0:21cr101	Criminal	Telemarketing Scam	In a scheme that targeted older and vulnerable victims, Wilson, age 42, ran a telemarketing call center in Arlington, Texas, where Wilson provided his telemarketers with scripts containing fraudulent sales pitches for use in defrauding victim-consumers out of hundreds or even thousands of dollars. www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/final-defendant-pleads-guilty-nationwide-telemarketing-fraud-scheme-targeting-elders	Pled guilty	
USAO Minnesota	<i>U.S. v. Timmerman et al.</i>	0:20cr233	Criminal	Magazine Subscription Scam	Diallo, age 36, and other participants of the fraud scheme targeted people, many of whom were older, who had previously been victimized by fraudulent magazine companies and were currently being billed by one or more fraudulent magazine companies on an ongoing basis—and used this vulnerability to victimize them all over again through promises of being able to cancel their unwanted magazine subscriptions. www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/canadian-man-pleads-guilty-30-million-magazine-fraud-scheme-targeting-elders	Pled guilty	
USAO Minnesota	<i>U.S. v. Kordorwu</i>	0:23cr27	Criminal	Romance Scam	Kordorwu, 37, helped facilitate an online romance fraud scheme that targeted primarily older victims and lured them into sending money under false pretenses. www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/brooklyn-park-man-pleads-guilty-23m-romance-fraud-scheme	Pled guilty	
USAO Minnesota	<i>U.S. v. Wilfred</i>	0:23cr29	Criminal	Romance Scam	Wilfred, age 43, and other scheme participants knowingly and intentionally participated in and facilitated an online romance fraud scheme that targeted primarily older victims and lured them into sending money under false pretenses. Wilfred primarily assisted with the collection and transfer of the fraudulently obtained funds. www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/coon-rapids-man-sentenced-prison-13m-romance-fraud-scheme-targeted-elderly-victims	36 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$1,356,995 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Minnesota	<i>U.S. v. Rahm et al.</i>	0:20cr232	Criminal	Magazine Subscription Scam	Miller, Crump, and Dudley accomplished their scheme by calling victim-consumers, many of whom were older adults, who had one or more existing magazine subscriptions and offering to "renew" the existing magazine subscriptions, often at a reduced cost. In reality, the defendants tricked the victim-consumers into signing up for entirely new magazine subscriptions, which they did not want and often could not afford. www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/federal-jury-finds-three-defendants-guilty-300-million-nationwide-telemarketing-fraud	Guilty verdict	
USAO Minnesota	<i>U.S. v. Mathias et al.</i>	0:20cr231	Criminal	Telemarketing Scam	Albritton, 59, of Stockbridge, GA, knowingly conspired with others to devise a telemarketing scheme that victimized numerous individuals across the United States, many of whom are older and vulnerable persons. www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/georgia-woman-pleads-guilty-nationwide-telemarketing-fraud-scheme-targeting-elders	Pled guilty	Ronald Coleman
USAO Minnesota	<i>U.S. v. Obije</i>	0:23cr4	Criminal	Romance Scam	Obije, age 41, served as a money mule for a group of individuals perpetrating a range of frauds, including romance scams, and Chanthavong, age 36, facilitated laundering money back to India. www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/two-nigerian-nationals-sentenced-online-romance-fraud-conspiracy	Obije: 14 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$356,671 restitution ordered. Chanthavong: 3 years' probation; \$148,500.00 restitution ordered.	
USAO Mississippi, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Etim et al.</i>	2:22cr29	Criminal	Romance Scam	Etim, age 24 and a university track and field athlete, participated in a Nigeria-based scheme to target men and women across the United States in romance scams, fraudulent goods scams, and military scams. The victims of the fraud schemes, some of which were older adults, were instructed to send money to individuals based in the United States, including Etim, who would then transfer the money ultimately back overseas. www.justice.gov/usao-sdms/pr/last-charged-collegiate-track-athlete-sentenced-moving-money-overseas-fraud-schemes	Convicted 10/31/2023; Sentenced 4/10/2024 to 36 months' probation; \$123,116.50 restitution ordered; \$74,847.52 fine	Uyoyo Mercy Abire, Raymond Ekevwo, Toluwani Adebakin, Ngoni Chadyiwa, Emmanuel Ineh
USAO Mississippi, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Grace</i>	3:24cr74	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Defendant diverted Social Security benefits of older victims into her own bank account.	Information	
USAO Mississippi, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Fayorsey</i>	1:23cr137	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Investment scheme involving fraudulent company. Two charged defendants received funds from victims and then wired them overseas.	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Chen et al.</i>	4:24mj9165	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Bowen Chen, age 21, Jiacheng Chen, age 19, and Vianne Chen, age 41, have been federally indicted and accused of participating in a conspiracy that used Taiwanese passports, fraudulent bank accounts, and money mules to scam older victims nationwide, joining four others also accused of a role. Defendants traveled to the Eastern District of Missouri and exchanged currency for cashier's checks that were deposited into financial accounts. The currency exchange transactions involved the proceeds of criminal activity that included tech support schemes targeting older adults. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/three-more-accused-role-scamming-elderly-nationwide	Indictment	Liang Jin, Tsz Yin Kan, Kaiyu Wen, Yu-Chieh Huang
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Medrano</i>	4:22cr448	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Medrano's uncle, who is now 73 years old and suffers multiple health issues, entrusted Medrano, age 42, with his debit card so she could make purchases on his behalf. Medrano instead used the card to make online and in-store purchases, and subsequently transferred funds from her uncle's account into her own. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/lake-st-louis-woman-sentenced-prison-defrauding-ailing-uncle	15 months' imprisonment; \$79,827 restitution ordered	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Butler</i>	4:23CR345 SRC	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or embezzlement	Defendant transferred funds from the credit union account of her 96-year-old great-grandmother into an account she opened. The transferred funds represented the majority of her great-grandmother's savings.	Information; Convicted 10/19/2023; Sentenced 10/19/2023 to 36 months' imprisonment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Gray</i>	4:23cr677	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	The indictment accuses Gray, age 51, of using the personal information of a 74-year-old widower and a fraudulently obtained financial power of attorney to access the credit and debit cards and financial accounts of the alleged victim. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/georgia-woman-accused-defrauding-st-charles-county-widower	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Rives et al./U.S. v. Rives</i>	4:23cr465 /4:23cr210/4:23mj9021	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud	Rives, age 36, financially exploited two older women while committing disability fraud. Rives received payment for construction work, most of which was never done. He also used the victim's debit card for personal purchases for himself and his family. Rives executed a quit claim deed and transferred a house belonging to the other victim into his name. He moved the older victim from her home and into a nursing home and permitted his mother to move into the home. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/st-louis-county-man-sentenced-87-months-prison-ordered-pay-more-1-million-elder-fraud	Sentenced 6/27/2024 to 87 months' imprisonment; \$1,042,848 restitution ordered; \$100,000 fine	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Guo</i>	4:24cr214	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	The conspirators contacted older victims via telephone calls and electronic messages and tricked them into turning over cash. Couriers such as Guo, age 27, were paid to pick up the cash from their victims, some of which were older victims. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/chinese-national-accused-defrauding-elderly	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. James</i>	4:24cr198	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud	James, age 27, falsely claiming to be a licensed contractor, was hired to perform home repairs for an older adult. James admitted to knowingly possessing or using, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person to commit bank fraud and to financially exploit the older victim. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/jefferson-county-contractor-admits-aiding-financial-exploitation-elderly-victim	Pled guilty	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Huang</i>	4:23cr470	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Jin, age 24, Kan, age 41, Wen, age 25, and Huang, age 22, were indicted in connection with a nationwide tech support scam targeting older adults. Huang has been in custody since August. In one case, a 78-year-old man trying to access his personal computer was greeted with a pop-up message claiming that his computer was infected with a virus. Upon calling the "help" line number, the older victim was instructed his bank account had been compromised and he would have to pay \$88,000 to avoid prosecution. Huang arrived at the older man's house to collect the money, where he was arrested and accused of being a courier for the scammers. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/four-accused-nationwide-financial-scam-targeting-elderly	Superseding Indictment	Liang Jin
USAO Missouri, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Oladimeji et al.</i>	4:21cr423	Criminal	Romance Scam	Oladimeji, age 38, of Texas, assisted other scammers in Nigeria and the United States to prey on the older victim, who thought she was in an online romantic relationship with a veterinarian and animal behaviorist living in St. Louis. www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/romance-scammer-who-helped-steal-nearly-12-million-missouri-woman-sentenced-3-years	3 years' imprisonment; \$1,170,000 restitution ordered	Olumide Akrinmade, Adewale Adesanya
USAO Missouri, Western	<i>U.S. v. Armstrong</i>	23-00127	Criminal	Identity Theft; Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Two defendants stole checks, credit cards, and identities from patients in assisted living facilities where the lead defendant worked.	Indictment; Convicted 1/4/2024	Lance Becker
USAO Missouri, Western	<i>U.S. v. McVey</i>	24-0007	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Defendant was VP at a bank that violated Bank Secrecy Act regulations by allowing a sweepstakes business targeting older adults to conduct ACH transactions. www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-banking-executive-pleads-guilty-evading-anti-money-laundering-regulations	Information; Convicted 1/17/2024	
USAO Missouri, Western	<i>U.S. v. Scroggs</i>	24-CR-03064-01-SRB	Criminal	Timeshare or Timeshare Resale Scam	According to the indictment, Scroggs employed sales teams who traveled the country hosting seminars during which Vacation Consulting Services/Real Travel presented to timeshare owners they could get them out of their timeshare contracts for a fee.	Indictment	
USAO Montana	<i>U.S. v. Noon, Jr.</i>	4:23cr100	Criminal	Violence	Noon, Jr., 39, admitted to beating an older small business owner while demanding money. www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/browning-man-sentenced-18-months-prison-assaulting-elderly-small-business-owner	Pled guilty; 18 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$2,500 for reported lost wages	
USAO Montana	<i>U.S. v. Lewis-Stella</i>	4:23cr105	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Lewis-Stella, age 60, under the guise of serving as caregiver for her mother, who required assistance, forged approximately seventy of her mother's checks to steal her fortune. www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/daughter-who-stole-more-700000-elderly-mother-lewistown-while-serving-caregiver	Sentenced to 54 months' imprisonment on 6/6/2024; 3 years supervised release; \$725,145 restitution	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Montana	<i>U.S. v. Vaid et al.</i>	9:23cr25	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Vaid, age 24, an Indian national, admitted to his role in stealing \$150,000 from a 73-year-old Montana woman through a tech support scheme, in which a pop-up notified her that her computer had been hacked and instructing the victim to call a number for customer support. The victim was fraudulently informed to move her money for safekeeping to the "fed." www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/india-based-computer-hacking-scam-targeted-elderly-across-country-and-stole-150000	51 months' imprisonment	Eddly Joseph
USAO Montana	<i>U.S. v. Joseph/U.S. v. Vaid et al.</i>	9:23cr25	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Joseph, age 44, participated in an international, India-based scam that included fraudsters tricking Jane Doe, an older adult, into giving them \$150,000 for "safe-keeping." In general, the fraudsters made it appear as if victims had a virus on their computers and that their bank accounts were accessible to hackers. www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/florida-man-sentenced-prison-india-based-computer-hacking-scheme-stole-150000-elderly	21 months' imprisonment; \$1,236,470 restitution ordered	Sukhdev Vaid
USAO Montana	<i>U.S. v. Mann</i>	1:22cr17	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Mann, age 54, offered to help the victim, a recently widowed older man who was familiar with Mann and trusted her with his taxes and bookkeeping. After gaining control of the victim's bank account, Mann stole more than \$119,000 through various methods, including taking money directly from the victim and opening several lines of credit in his name without his knowledge. www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/glendive-woman-sentenced-more-three-years-prison-stealing-more-119000-elderly-man-whose	40 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	
USAO Montana	<i>U.S. v. Heikkila</i>	CR 24-5-M-DWM	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Jay Heikkila facilitated the theft of over \$500,000 from 14 older victims via a sweepstakes scheme. He forwarded some of the money to the organizer in Jamaica, but also kept a significant amount for himself. www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/informational-federal-court-arraignments-244	Indictment; Extradited 1/31/2024	
USAO Montana	<i>U.S. v. Brooks</i>	CR 23-23-BLG-SPW	Criminal	Inheritance Scam	Richard Brooks facilitated an inheritance scheme resulting in a loss amount in excess of \$700,000. He told the victims the only way to obtain funds was to make payments up front. www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/informational-federal-court-arraignments-220	Indictment; Extradited 5/18/2023; Convicted 1/29/2024; Sentenced 5/30/2024	
USAO Nebraska	<i>U.S. v. Uhing</i>	8:23CR195	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Uhing obtained unauthorized access to her in-laws' bank accounts and CDs and transferred over \$200,000 to her own accounts.	Indictment	
USAO Nevada	<i>U.S. v. Del Rio</i>	2:19cr22	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Del Rio, age 56, and six co-conspirators printed and mailed millions of fraudulent prize notices that led their victims, many of whom were older and vulnerable, to believe that they could claim a large cash prize if they paid a fee of \$20 to \$25. This was false; victims who paid the fees did not receive anything of value. Once victims did make a payment, Del Rio and his co-conspirators bombarded victims with more fraudulent mail. www.justice.gov/usao-nv/pr/nevada-man-sentenced-prize-notice-scheme	51 months' imprisonment	Patti Kern, Andrea Burrow, Sean O'Connor, Mario Castro, Miguel Castro, Jose Luis Mendez

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Nevada	<i>U.S. v. Castro et al.</i>	2:19cr295	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Mario Castro, age 55, Miguel Castro, age 58, and Jose Luis Mendez, age 49, and other co-conspirators printed and mailed millions of fraudulent prize notices that led their victims, most of whom were older adults, to believe that they could claim a large cash prize if they paid a fee of about \$20 to \$25. Victims did not receive anything of value. Once victims made a payment, the defendants bombarded them with more fraudulent prize notices. www.justice.gov/usao-nv/pr/three-nevada-men-sentenced-multimillion-dollar-prize-notice-scheme	Mario Castro: 240 months' imprisonment. Miguel Castro: 235 months' imprisonment. Jose Luis Mendez: 168 months' imprisonment.	
USAO New Hampshire	<i>U.S. v. Freeman et al.</i>	1:21cr41	Criminal	Romance Scam	Freeman, age 43, laundered over \$10 million in proceeds of romance scams and other internet frauds that preyed on vulnerable persons by exchanging U.S. dollars for bitcoin using his business, which he failed to register with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/ian-freeman-ordered-pay-more-35-million-restitution-victims-and-forfeit-proceeds-his	96 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; \$3,500,000 restitution ordered; \$40,000 fine	
USAO New Hampshire	<i>U.S. v. Ferrill</i>	23-cr-87-JL	Criminal	Romance Scam	Ferrill, age 72, received a money mule warning letter from the FBI, which explicitly warned him that engaging in wire transfers on behalf of people he did not know could facilitate fraudulent schemes and expose him to criminal liability. Despite the warning, the defendant continued to engage in transactions involving victims of romance scams and transferred scam proceeds to bank accounts outside the United States. www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/sanbornville-man-pleads-guilty-money-laundering-charges-connection-romance-scams	Information; Convicted 10/23/2023; Sentenced 1/26/2024	
USAO New Jersey	<i>U.S. v. Valdez</i>	2:24cr408	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	The scam operated from call centers in the Dominican Republic, making phone calls to older American victims purporting to be the victim's grandchild, an attorney representing the grandchild in criminal proceedings, court personnel, or other persons associated with the legal system. Once victims were convinced to pay money, Valdez, age 39, would go to victims' homes to collect the money. www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/new-york-man-charged-connection-transnational-grandparent-scam-operated-dominican	Indictment	
USAO New Jersey	<i>U.S. v. Inalegwu et al.</i>	1:23cr282	Criminal	Romance Scam	Inalegwu, age 35, and co-conspirators, several of whom reside in Nigeria, participated in an online romance scheme, initially contacting victims, some of whom were older adults, through on-line dating and social media websites. (https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/three-individuals-admit-tax-evasion-and-other-charges-after-defrauding-more-100-victims)	Pled guilty	Steincy Mathieu, Oluwaseyi Fatolu
USAO New Jersey	<i>U.S. v. Crosby</i>	3:11cr796	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Crosby used a prepaid cellular phone to contact victims, many of whom were over the age of 70 and their spouses had recently passed away. Crosby used fictitious names and purported to be employees of either a retirement benefit office and/or a life insurance company. www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/atlantic-city-woman-admits-defrauding-elderly-victims	Pled guilty	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO New Jersey	<i>U.S. v. Mitra</i>	2:22cr441 / 2:22cr442	Criminal	Online Scams	Following criminal India-based call center utilization of automated robocalls to victims across the country with the intent of defrauding U.S. residents, particularly older Americans, Arushobike Mitra, 29, and Garbita Mitra, 25, (no relation) and other members of the conspiracy would coerce or trick the victims into sending large sums of cash through physical shipments or wire transfers to other members of the conspiracy. www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/two-indian-nationals-each-sentenced-41-months-prison-receiving-over-12-million-global	Each defendant: 41 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$835,324 restitution ordered	
USAO New York, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Quamey</i>	23-CR-226	Criminal	Romance Scam	Quamey and a network of co-conspirators received over \$3.8 million in fraud proceeds that were stolen from several vulnerable and older U.S. victims of romance scams. www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/ghanaian-national-sentenced-48-months-imprisonment-receiving-money-stolen-romance-scam	48 months' imprisonment; \$3,800,000 restitution and forfeiture ordered	
USAO New York, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Watts</i>	17-CR-372	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Watts, age 62, is a former registered broker who participated in a criminal conspiracy to promote and manipulate the price of shares in Hydrocarb Energy Corp. and other companies. Watts was one of the largest shareholders in Hydrocarb and therefore knew that the business was in a downward spiral, and also used the boiler room to dump more than \$2 million of Hydrocarb shares that he owned or controlled on unsuspecting investors in the months leading to the company's April 2016 bankruptcy. www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/corporate-insider-sentenced-60-months-prison-conspiring-long-island-boiler-room-pump	60 months' imprisonment; \$4,430,354.03 restitution ordered; \$560,000 forfeiture	
USAO New York, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Arora</i>	N/A	Civil	False Claims Act	Dr. Arora violated the federal False Claims Act by billing Medicare for critical care services to residents of nursing homes when, in fact, he provided only routine care. http://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/queens-physician-settles-health-care-fraud-claims-13-million-and-enters-integrity	\$1.3 million to resolve the government's fraud claims; Integrity Agreement with the U.S. HHS OIG	
USAO New York, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Kaplan et al.</i>	2:23cr293	Criminal	Investment Scam	Adam Kaplan and Daniel Kaplan (brothers) acted as investment advisors for hundreds of clients. The defendants used their positions of trust to misappropriate millions of dollars from their clients, some of whom were older and/or disabled, using the funds for personal expenses and to purchase luxury goods. www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/long-island-investment-advisers-indicted-defrauding-clients-millions-dollars	Indictment	
USAO New York, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Scheinbaum</i>	N/A	Civil	False Claims Act	Chaim "Muttu" Scheinbaum never obtained a license that would have allowed him to legally operate Saratoga Center, and yet performed most of those responsibilities. Scheinbaum caused the submission of false claims to the Medicaid program for worthless services provided to residents at Saratoga Center for Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Care. www.justice.gov/usao-ndny/pr/new-jersey-man-pay-656000-illegally-operating-ballston-spa-nursing-home	\$656,000 to resolve allegations of False Claims Act violation	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO New York, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Natalie</i>	1:22cr243	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Natalie, age 65, admitted that after being appointed as a fiduciary for a veteran, between September 2019 and January 2021, she stole veteran's VA benefits by using the benefits, which were deposited into the veteran's bank account, for her own personal ends. www.justice.gov/usao-ndny/pr/saratoga-springs-woman-sentenced-misappropriating-funds-fiduciary-veteran	3 months' jail; 2 years supervised release; \$50,174.42 restitution ordered	
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Guy et al.</i>	1:24mj2386	Criminal	Romance Scam	Stanley and Guy lured the victims, who were nearly all older individuals, into purported romantic or close personal relationships through in-person meetings, phone calls, text messages, and an online dating platform. After earning the victims' trust, Stanley and Guy convinced the victims to transfer money to Stanley and Guy under false pretenses, including by, among other things, falsely representing that Stanley and Guy needed money for fake businesses and organ transplants. www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/new-york-and-florida-women-arrested-defrauding-over-dozen-victims-more-7-million	Indictment	
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. John</i>	1:21cr609	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam	Adedayo John was the leader of a money laundering and bank fraud ring that laundered millions of dollars in proceeds derived from business email compromises and romance fraud schemes impacting more than 50 victims, many of whom were older men and women. www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/leader-money-laundering-and-bank-fraud-ring-sentenced-seven-years-prison	84 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$1,500,000 restitution ordered; forfeit \$4,513,438.23 and two vehicles	Oluwadamilola Akinpelu, Kazeem Raheem, Morakinyo Gbeyide, Warris Adenuga, A/K/A "Blue," Smart Agunbiade, Lateef Goloba, Samsondeen Goloba, Olawoyin Peter Olarewaju, Emmanuel Oronsaye-Ajayi, Aramiwale Shittu
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Umoren</i>	1:22cr193	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam	Umoren, age 62, participated in a criminal enterprise (the "Enterprise") based in Nigeria that conducted a series of scams against individuals, many involving older adults in romance scams, and businesses located across the United States. Umoren facilitated the laundering of proceeds of the Enterprise's investment, business email compromise, and romance scams. www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/georgia-man-sentenced-three-years-prison-laundering-millions-proceeds-fraud-schemes	36 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Leyva</i>	1:19cr667	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Ponmaran, age 35, is a citizen of India and the India-based leader of the fraud ring. Ponmaran and his co-conspirators participated in a conspiracy that for several years exploited victims, many of whom were older, by remotely accessing their computers and convincing victims to pay for computer support services they did not need, and which were never actually provided. www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/citizen-india-pleads-guilty-tech-support-fraud-scheme-exploited-elderly	Pled guilty	
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Montrage</i>	1:22cr617	Criminal	Romance Scam	From at least in or about 2013 through in or about 2019, Montrage, age 31, was a member of a criminal enterprise (the "Enterprise") based in West Africa that committed a series of frauds against businesses and against individuals, many of whom were vulnerable, older men and women who lived alone, including romance scams. www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/prominent-ghanaian-influencer-pleads-guilty-receiving-fraud-proceeds-romance-scams	Pled guilty; \$2,164,758.41 restitution ordered; \$2,164,758.41 forfeiture	
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Gamboa</i>	1:24mj612	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Gamboa, age 51, and others contacted older victims while claiming to be high-ranking federal government officials, to convince victims that they had won large cash prizes as part of a sweepstakes lottery. www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/costa-rica-man-arrested-sweepstakes-fraud-and-impersonation-federal-government	Arrest	
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Felix et al.</i>	1:21cr472	Criminal	Romance Scam	Wade used a sham women's clothing company as a front to receive fraud proceeds from victims of various scams and launder that money on behalf of the scam artists in Nigeria and South Africa that were targeting older Americans. www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/bronx-woman-convicted-trial-laundering-over-2-million-funds-victims-romance-fraud	Guilty verdict	
USAO New York, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Hakim</i>	1:21cr259	Criminal	Romance Scam; Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam	Hakim participated in an international wire fraud conspiracy that left at least 15 people, some of whom were older adults, and entities with over \$1.4 million in losses. Hakim facilitated the laundering of proceeds of three types of fraud schemes, a "Romance Scheme," a "Lottery Scheme," and a "Business Email Compromise Scheme." www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/michigan-man-sentenced-two-years-prison-participating-romance-scams-and-other-fraud	24 months' imprisonment; 6 months' home detention	
USAO New York, Western	<i>U.S. v. Laraba</i>	1:19cr36	Criminal	Violence	Laraba, age 45, and another individual entered a home, went to the family room where an older couple (victims) was watching television, bound and gagged the couple, and while one defendant observed the couple, the other defendant went to the attic and stole a lockbox with \$60,000 in cash, then both defendants left the home. www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/federal-jury-convicts-lockport-man-his-role-violent-home-invasion-and-robbery	12/12/2023 Guilty verdict	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO New York, Western	<i>U.S. v. Singh</i>	24-mj-01022-JJM	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	The defendant was working with a group of individuals who were targeting older people, and scamming them into sending money via wire transfers, cash, and purchasing gold bullion. The defendant was pulled over in a traffic stop where he was found possessing gold bars, which were traced back to a local older couple in the Buffalo area. The older couple was told by the bad actors that illicit activity was conducted using their personal information, and in order to “clear” their name, and prevent law enforcement from arresting or prosecuting them, they had to pay money to the U.S. Marshals who were working to resolve the case on their behalf. The older couple sent approximately \$550,000 to the bad actors.	Criminal complaint	
USAO North Carolina, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Frimpong</i>	5:23cr35	Criminal	Romance Scam	Frimpong, a 33-year-old active-duty Army servicemember, engaged in elaborate romance scams involving some older adults and then laundered the proceeds of these frauds through his various bank accounts across state lines and through his contacts in Ghana. www.justice.gov/usao-ednc/pr/former-army-servicemember-sentenced-prison-money-laundering-romance-scam	40 months' imprisonment; hundreds of thousands in restitution ordered	
USAO North Carolina, Western	<i>U.S. v. Brawley</i>	5:23cr30	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Brawley, age 45, was expected to manage the older couple’s personal and business affairs and to pay routine bills. Brawley engaged in a scheme to defraud the older couple by exploiting her relationship with the victims to steal their money and property. For example, Brawley allegedly failed to make payments due on the victims’ home equity line of credit on their residence. As a result, the victims’ residence went into foreclosure and the couple lost their home. www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/conover-nc-woman-charged-mail-fraud-and-identity-theft-stealing-more-300000-elderly	Indictment	
USAO North Carolina, Western	<i>U.S. v. Unuigbe</i>	3:23cr276 /3:23mj2 93	Criminal	Romance Scam	Unuigbe, age 41, and his co-conspirators engaged in two separate but related conspiracies. The first, a conspiracy to commit money laundering, involved engaging in financial transactions involving the proceeds of various fraudulent schemes. This included online romance scams, in which co-conspirators contacted victims, most of whom were older, through various online dating and social media sites, and convinced those victims to transfer funds to bank accounts under the control of Unuigbe. www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/texas-man-pleads-guilty-facilitating-multi-million-dollar-financial-fraud-schemes-and	12/20/2023 Pled guilty	
USAO North Carolina, Western	<i>U.S. v. Quick</i>	3:24-cr-36	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud	The defendant is alleged to provide home repair and improvement services for older homeowners. The defendant received more than \$1.5 million from homeowners and failed to report this income to the IRS.	Indictment	
USAO North Carolina, Western	<i>U.S. v. Olorunfunmi et al.</i>	3:24cr67	Criminal	Romance Scam; Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam	Olorunfunmi, age 41, and Amos, age 52, conspired with Unuigbe and others to launder the illegal proceeds of business email compromise schemes and online romance scams targeting older victims. Victims were directed to wire funds into bank accounts controlled by defendants. After receiving the funds, the defendants depleted the bank accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/two-men-indicted-laundering-millions-dollars-fraud-proceeds-and-operating-unlicensed	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO North Carolina, Western	<i>U.S. v. Stewart</i>	3:23cr173	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	Stewart, age 39, contacted older Americans by telephone and falsely told them that they had won money and other prizes in a sweepstakes or lottery. Stewart told victims that they needed to send money to pay fees and taxes on their winnings. In fact, no lottery ever existed, and no victim ever received any money or other prizes. www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/jamaican-national-pleads-guilty-conspiracy-charge-connection-fraudulent-lottery-scheme	8/4/2023 Pled guilty	
USAO North Carolina, Western/ USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Stencil et al./U.S. v. Comu et al.</i>	3:16cr221 /3:19cr112	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Broyles Sr., age 66, participated in a high-yield investment fraud scheme involving a sham company named Niyato Industries Inc., portraying Niyato as a leader in electric vehicle manufacturing and converting vehicles to run on compressed natural gas. Virtually all investor funds were being disbursed among the co-conspirators and not used to promote Niyato's business. The scheme defrauded older and other vulnerable victims out of millions of dollars. www.justice.gov/opa/pr/serial-fraudster-sentenced-role-multiple-investment-fraud-schemes	48 months' imprisonment	Robert Leslie Stencil
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Alahmad</i>	1:23-CR-00286	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	The caregiver forged a power of attorney document and used it to apply for and receive credit and debit cards in the older victim's name. The older victim was in a nursing home rehab facility while the defendant made unauthorized withdrawals and purchases using the credit and debit cards.	Indictment; Convicted 3/19/2024	
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Xie</i>	1:24-CR-60	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Chinese National college student on an F-1 Visa traveled across the country as a money mule to pick up cash from older victims and transfer the funds to his handler.	Information; Convicted 3/5/2024	
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Cao</i>	1:24cr151	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Cao, age 34, allegedly engaged in a scheme to defraud the Ohio-based bank where he worked, and its customers who had not yet enrolled in online banking services, primarily older customers, by transferring funds from those customers' accounts to ones that Cao controlled, including accounts he had established in the customers' names, all without their knowledge or authorization. He diverted the money stolen from the customer accounts for his personal use. www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/bank-employee-indicted-charges-bank-fraud-and-identity-theft	Indictment	
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Islam</i>	5:24-cr-100	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	One defendant was charged with money laundering conspiracy for acting as a courier to pick up cash from the victim.	Indictment; Convicted 8/26/2024	
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Wehman</i>	1:23-cr-542	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	The defendant was charged with wire fraud for stealing from his grandfather by using credit cards, debit cards, and a line of credit.	Information; Sentenced 3/28/2024 to 37 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Lin Kai</i>	1:24-cr-158	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Victims were approached via Facebook to invest money into cryptocurrency. Victims were instructed to deposit U.S. legal tender with the utilization of a “service director” that worked at the cryptocurrency application business. The service director stated the platform would accept “face-to-face cash transactions.” During one of these transactions, Kai was identified as the individual in a vehicle scheduled to pick up the transaction.	Indictment	
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Alexander</i>	1:23cr149	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Alexander, and others involved, engaged in a cold-calling scheme to target older investors throughout the United States. They used aggressive and deceptive tactics and promised large returns if the victims participated in wine and whiskey investments. www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/uk-national-sentenced-fraudulent-wine-and-whiskey-scam-targeted-older-americans	Convicted 3/21/2023; Sentenced 6/27/2024 to 3 years’ probation; \$202,195.58 restitution ordered	
USAO Ohio, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Mangukia et al.</i>	4:24cr55	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Mangukia, age 39, and Navadiya, age 25, posed as customer service employees at a company or bank. They contacted a victim—typically an older person—and falsely claimed that the victim’s account was at risk or had been compromised by a hacking event or similar computer intrusion. The conspirators directed the victim to make a wire transfer, convert cash to cryptocurrency at a Bitcoin ATM, and withdraw cash to purchase gold coins and bars. www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/two-indian-nationals-charged-elder-fraud-gold-bar-courier-scam	Pled guilty	Yash Navadiya
USAO Ohio, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Acheampong</i>	1:23cr120	Criminal	Romance Scam	Acheampong, age 37, conspired with others to create false online profiles, which the conspirators used to express romantic interest in victims. Once the victim believed he or she was in a romantic relationship with the person pictured in the online profile, the co-conspirators, using false pretenses, would convince the victims to send money by mail or by wire transfer. www.justice.gov/usao-sdoh/pr/grand-jury-indicts-butler-county-man-romance-fraud-conspiracy-involving-more-1-million	Indictment	
USAO Oklahoma, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Walker</i>	6:23cr126	Criminal	Violence	Walker, age 20, violently attacked her grandmother at an Ada residence, leaving the victim with multiple bruises and lacerations requiring medical care. www.justice.gov/usao-edok/pr/ada-resident-pleads-guilty-assault-resulting-serious-bodily-injury-indian-country	Pled guilty 9/25/2023; Sentenced 4/3/2024 to 33 months' imprisonment	
USAO Oklahoma, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Scarborough</i>	6:23CR192	Criminal	Violence	Defendant stabbed two individuals to death, including one older individual.	Superseding Information; Convicted 5/6/2024	
USAO Oklahoma, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Pickelsimer</i>	6:23cr112	Criminal	Extortion	Pickelsimer, age 45, admitted to defrauding an older adult of their retirement savings through a blackmail scheme perpetrated over 19 months between 2019 and 2020. According to investigators, Pickelsimer targeted a retired acquaintance, falsely claimed to possess damaging material about a family member, created fake Facebook accounts, then used those accounts to extort money from the victim. www.justice.gov/usao-edok/pr/carter-county-resident-sentenced-role-defrauding-retiree	Convicted 7/20/2023; Sentenced 5/13/2024 to 41 months' imprisonment; \$1,050,000 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Oklahoma, Western	<i>U.S. v. Montgomery</i>	CR-24-136-F	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement; COVID-19-Related Fraud	The defendant fraudulently applied for Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program loans, including in her father's name. She embezzled this money from his bank account, along with other funds deposited therein.	Information; Convicted 4/3/2024	
USAO Oregon	N/A	N/A	Criminal	Romance Scam	In December 2019, the FBI began investigating a criminal organization based in Nigeria that operated several online fraud schemes, including romance scams, targeting older women in the United States. www.justice.gov/usao-or/pr/oregon-company-pays-17-million-accepting-payments-unlicensed-money-transmitting-business	Non-prosecution agreement; paid \$1.7 million	
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Byars et al.</i>	2:21cr247	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Byars, age 62, and Rembert, age 69, stole the life savings from dozens of incapacitated wards while Byars served as their court-appointed guardian. Byars spent the stolen ward money on vacations, clothing, vehicles, gifts, and parties. www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/pennsylvania-guardian-gloria-byars-her-co-conspirator-found-guilty-stealing-elderly	Byars: Pled guilty. Rembert: Guilty verdict.	Alesha Mitchell
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Oakley</i>	3:21cr179	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	Oakley, age 41, participated in a fraudulent sweepstakes scheme that targeted older and vulnerable victims. Oakley's victims received mailings, text messages or phone calls in which they were falsely told that they had won millions of dollars and luxury vehicles in a sweepstakes, but first needed to pay taxes and fees in order to claim their winnings. www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/jamaican-national-sentenced-role-fraudulent-sweepstakes-scheme-targeted-elderly	192 months' imprisonment	
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Jaggi</i>	1:24cr150	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Jaggi, age 39, was a member of a conspiracy that operated a fraud scheme that targeted victims throughout the United States, some of which were older adults, including Harrisburg, PA. In part, the fraud scheme was carried out by causing pop-up windows to appear on victims' personal computers. www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/new-york-man-charged-defrauding-harrisburg-resident-and-others-thousands-dollars-cash	Indictment	
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Noboa-Nival</i>	3:21cr386	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	DeJesus, age 22, participated in a Dominican Republic-based "grandparents" fraud scheme. DeJesus regularly traveled from New York City to locations in Pennsylvania to retrieve UPS and FedEx packages containing thousands of dollars in cash sent by older victims, who were induced to send the money based upon false claims that their grandchildren had been arrested and charged with serious crimes and, consequently, were in immediate need of money. www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/bronx-man-sentenced-80-months-imprisonment-his-role-lead-courier-grandparents-mail	80 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$366,303.28 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Noboa-Nival</i>	3:21cr386	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Noboa-Nival, age 22, regularly traveled from New York City to locations in Pennsylvania to retrieve UPS and FedEx packages containing thousands of dollars in cash. These packages were sent by older victims, who were induced to send the money based upon false claims that their grandchildren had been arrested and charged with serious crimes and, consequently, were in immediate need of money. www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/florida-man-sentenced-21-months-imprisonment-his-role-grandparents-mail-fraud-scheme	21 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$195,000.00 restitution ordered	
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Noboa-Nival</i>	3:21cr386	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Peguero-Rosario, age 25, a courier in a Dominican Republic-based grandparents fraud scheme that preyed upon older American victims from states across the country, regularly traveled from New York City to locations in Pennsylvania to retrieve UPS and FedEx packages containing thousands of dollars in cash sent by older victims. www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/bronx-man-sentenced-21-months-imprisonment-his-role-grandparents-mail-fraud-scheme	21 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$220,000 restitution ordered	
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Pitter et al.</i>	1:21cr26	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	The defendants, Pitter, Lyttle, and Marshall, received funds from victims of a Jamaican lottery scam. The evidence at trial showed that an individual based in Jamaica posing as a representative of Publisher's Clearing House used "lead lists" containing the names and personal information of older Americans to contact potential victims. www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/three-new-york-residents-convicted-fraud-and-money-laundering-using-funds-elderly	Guilty verdict	
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Zanetti</i>	21-476, 22-132, 22-235, 22-299, 22-301, 22-306	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Nine individuals are involved in a grandparent scam, organized from Panama. Six individuals traveled to Pittsburgh and other locations to collect money from victims of the scheme. Three individuals were extradited from Panama at the end of August 2023.	Samuel David Ferrer Avila: Pled guilty. Roberto Gutierrez: Pled guilty and sentenced to 46 months' imprisonment. Tarek Bouanane: Convicted and sentenced to 46 months' imprisonment. Roderick Feurtado: Convicted and sentenced to 120 months' imprisonment.	
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Zanetti</i>	2:22cr306	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Zanetti, age 41, Avila, age 22, Morante, age 27, and co-conspirators participated in the orchestration and execution of a sophisticated nationwide grandparent scheme that targeted older Americans. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/three-residents-panama-indicted-charges-conspiracy-commit-wire-fraud-and-conspiracy	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Tran et al.</i>	2:22cr115	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Tran, age 34, and Bui, age 30, were part of a wide-ranging criminal conspiracy which had two overall elements: A fraud scheme to deprive victims of money, and then a second scheme to launder the fraudulently obtained funds, with Tran and Bui involved in the latter scheme. Vulnerable victims, often older adults, across the United States were convinced through nefarious means, including computer pop-up messages followed by telephone calls from co-conspirators operating out of call centers in India, to send their money to bank accounts created with stolen personally identifiable information. www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/two-california-residents-sentenced-roles-wide-ranging-fraud-and-money-laundering	Tran: 87 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$4,247,987 restitution ordered. Bui: 4 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$194,278 restitution ordered.	
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Feurtado et al.</i>	2:21cr476	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Gutierrez, age 51, and two co-conspirators posed as attorneys while calling numerous older victims and falsely representing that one of the victim's relatives, typically a grandchild, had been incarcerated and needed money for bail and legal fees. Gutierrez and/or co-conspirators would then visit the victims at their homes, posing as a courier or bail bondsman, to collect the fraudulently obtained money. www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/third-co-conspirator-sentenced-international-fraud-scheme-targeting-elderly-victims	46 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$117,525 restitution ordered	Roderick Feurtado, Tarek Bouanane
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Feurtado et al.</i>	2:21cr476	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Feurtado, age 57, and Bouanane, age 47, traveled to the Pittsburgh area in September 2021 to execute a scheme to defraud older victims of large amounts of cash. As part of the scheme, members of the conspiracy contacted numerous victims and falsely claimed that a family member of the victim's, usually a grandchild, had been detained in connection with a legal proceeding and needed money for bail. www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/las-vegas-resident-sentenced-ten-years-prison-role-international-fraud-scheme	Feurtado: 120 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release. Bouanane: 46 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release. \$258,520 restitution ordered.	Stefano Zanetti, Samuel David Ferrer Avila, Cesar Javier Chourio Morante
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Taylor, Jr. et al.</i>	2:20cr17	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Taylor, age 41, admitted that, from March 2016 to August 2017, he participated in an Internal Revenue Service impersonation fraud conspiracy involving call centers located in India. www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/westmoreland-county-resident-sentenced-33-months-prison-conspiring-commit-wire-fraud	33 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; \$193,111 restitution ordered	
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Gilbert et al.</i>	2:21cr79	Criminal	Health Care Fraud	Brighton and Mt. Lebanon nursing homes falsified staffing information provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to show that the facilities were in compliance with the conditions of participation in Medicare and Medicaid. The false certifications were provided to evade penalties that the government regulators could have imposed for failing to meet those conditions, including the condition that the facilities provide sufficient staffing to meet the needs of the residents. www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/federal-jury-finds-pittsburgh-area-nursing-homes-guilty-healthcare-offenses	Guilty verdict	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Plummer</i>	2:23cr147	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Plummer, age 31, Williams, age 38, Singh, age 26, Murray, age 30, McKenzie, age 31, Byfield, age 27, and Reid, age 27, executed a scheme to defraud that stole more than \$2.8 million from the older and vulnerable victims in the USAO Western District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the United States. As part of that scheme, conspirators contacted the victims and falsely told them that they had won a million or multi-million-dollar sweepstakes, but needed to pay certain taxes and fees before they could claim their prize. www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/seven-individuals-indicted-fraud-and-money-laundering-charges-relating-international	Indictment	
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	<i>U.S. v. Nguyen</i>	2:23cr30	Criminal	Online Scams	Nguyen, age 34, and co-conspirators were involved in a scheme that convinced older or otherwise vulnerable persons, through deceit, to send their funds to accounts set up at various banks and brokerage houses. The accounts were created in the names of other victims whose personally identifiable information had been stolen. Nguyen then sent the bulk of the funds to Tran, the leader of the money laundering portion of the scheme. www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/texas-resident-sentenced-conviction-money-laundering	4 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$259,122.16 restitution ordered	Thien Phuc Tran
USAO Puerto Rico	<i>U.S. v. Baiyewu et al.</i>	3:21cr395	Criminal	Romance Scam; COVID-19-Related Fraud; Business Email Compromise Scam	Adelekan age 40, Omotayo, age 40, Dudubo, age 37, and Suleiman, age 37, conspired to launder funds from different international organized fraud schemes, including romance, pandemic relief unemployment insurance fraud, and business email compromise scams. These fraud schemes disproportionately impacted older or otherwise vulnerable Americans. www.justice.gov/opa/pr/four-men-charged-superseding-indictment-conspiring-launder-funds-various-fraud-schemes	Indictment	Oluwasegun Baiyewu
USAO Puerto Rico	<i>U.S. v. De La Rosa</i>	22-440(MAJ)	Criminal	Identity Theft	Eight individuals were indicted in connection with a scheme to act as bank officials and obtain ATM cards and PINs to make unauthorized transactions, including the purchase of USPS money orders, and transfers of money outside the United States. www.justice.gov/usao-pr/pr/eight-individuals-indicted-and-arrested-bank-and-wire-fraud-money-laundering-and	Superseding Indictment; Convicted 4/18/2024	Raisa Raymundo-Vargas
USAO Rhode Island	<i>U.S. v. Roquez et al.</i>	1:21cr26	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Roquez, 39, personally visited the homes of grandparent scam victims in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to collect cash from them after they had been convinced by other members of the conspiracy that a relative, usually a grandchild or child, had been arrested and that the money was urgently needed for bail. www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/providence-man-sentenced-scamming-rhode-island-and-massachusetts-seniors	12 months and one day imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; 60 hours community service (providing public awareness to older adults); \$130,300 restitution ordered	
USAO Rhode Island	<i>U.S. v. Onyobeno et al.</i>	1:19cr115	Criminal	Romance Scam	Scherer, age 42, laundered nearly \$1.1 million of the nearly \$3 million in stolen proceeds laundered by members of the conspiracy during the time she was part of the conspiracy, money that was stolen primarily from older adults and widows in several states through internet-based romance scams. www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/georgia-woman-sentenced-rhode-island-role-multi-million-dollar-romance-fraud-schemes	46 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Rhode Island	<i>U.S. v. Audate</i>	1:22cr23	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Audate, 38, picked up thousands of dollars in cash provided by older victims of a grandparent scam. Members of the conspiracy contacted older victims throughout the United States, including in Rhode Island, by telephone. Posing as the victim's grandchild, a relative, a lawyer, or other individual, members of the conspiracy falsely told the victim that a relative, typically the victim's grandchild or child, had been arrested or incarcerated in connection with a car accident, and that the relative needed money for bail or related legal expenses. www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/grandparent-scammer-sentenced-federal-prison	30 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$867,149 restitution ordered	
USAO Rhode Island	<i>U.S. v. Abudu et al.</i>	1:20cr61	Criminal	Romance Scam; Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	Alonge, 47, and other conspirators contacted older individuals in several states, including Rhode Island, befriending them and feigning romantic intentions through online social media platforms and dating sites. Scammers then used the relationships and trust they built to convince victims to provide them with money to assist with business ventures or personal debt. Other schemes involved sweepstakes fraud. www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/fifth-defendant-sentenced-laundering-proceeds-scams-targeting-elderly-us-citizens	10 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$455,750 restitution ordered joint and several	Olabode Shaba, Dotun Olawale Oladipupu Shodipo, Samson Ikotun, Oluwaseyi Akintola
USAO Rhode Island	<i>U.S. v. Lasley</i>	1:23cr7	Criminal	Romance Scam	Lasley, age 34, created a social media account containing fake profile information on the dating site "Plenty of Fish," and promptly began a campaign to persuade the 96-year-old widower victim to provide her with money, credit cards, gift cards, and his personally identifiable information. Lasley fraudulently obtained access to the victim's checking account and credit cards and made numerous unauthorized purchases. www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/indiana-woman-sentenced-federal-prison-victimizing-96-year-old-rhode-islander-through	36 months' imprisonment	
USAO South Carolina	<i>U.S. v. Banks</i>	0:22-cr-992	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Defendant worked at an extended care facility. She had access to funds intended for the purchase of personal items for the residents. This money was in an account in the name of the facility, but the victims were used to carry out the fraud.	Indictment; Convicted 12/13/2023; Sentenced 6/18/2024 to 14 months' imprisonment	
USAO South Carolina	<i>U.S. v. 0.17366943 BITCOIN</i>	3:2024cv00988	Civil	Technical Support Scam	Older victim exploited through a computer scam.		
USAO South Carolina	<i>U.S. v. Campbell</i>	4:24-cr-00229	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	This is a sweepstakes/lottery scheme in which victims (mainly older victims) were made to believe that they had won a sweepstakes, but in order to collect the winnings they had to pay taxes and fees before they could claim the prize. The victims were instructed to mail the funds to cover the fees to addresses controlled by the defendant and her co-conspirators and/or wire funds to accounts controlled by them. The funds were then wired to co-conspirators in Jamaica.	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO South Carolina	<i>U.S. v. Lindler</i>	3:24-cr-00438	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	The U.S. Postal Service identified the defendant, Lindler, an older person herself, as receiving a large amount of mail of the type that caused a suspicion of mail fraud. U.S. Postal Inspectors had the defendant sign a "money mule" letter, but her behavior continued. Investigation revealed that Lindler was involved in an illegal scheme in which older victims were told that they had won a prize, but that they would have to pay taxes and fees before they could claim the prize. The victims were instructed to mail gift cards and checks to Lindler's address to cover the fees. Lindler would then deposit the funds into accounts to which others had access. Much of the money was withdrawn in Jamaica.	Indictment	
USAO Tennessee, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Abdalkareem</i>	2:24-cr-19	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Romance Scam	Defendants perpetrated a scheme in which they would pose as a celebrity and begin a romantic relationship with someone or pose as law enforcement. In this case, defendants posed as federal law enforcement and demanded payments to seal a pending investigation. The victim sent his life savings to the defendants and then committed suicide in response to further harassment.	Information	Chinagorom Onwumere
USAO Tennessee, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Henry et al. (TV2)</i>	3:21cr87	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Henry, age 38, and co-conspirators targeted older victims from across the United States by telephone and told them they had won a large sum of money even though they had never entered the lottery. In order to claim the prize money, victims were told they had to pay taxes on the winnings first. www.justice.gov/usao-edtn/pr/nigel-john-ross-henry-sentenced-75-months-prison-conspiracy-commit-wire-and-mail-fraud	75 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; \$331,569.39 restitution ordered, joint and several	Diedre Rochelle Weir, Diedria Roseanne Faulkner
USAO Tennessee, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Sterk et al.</i>	4:20mj80	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Ankur Khemani, Marilyn Sterk, Jennifer Sterk, Teresa Sterk Vanbaale, and Gaurav Bhasin operated a bogus computer technical support company. Victims, some of whom were older adults, would obtain a toll-free number for the phony service through a pop-up advertisement or internet search. The calls were routed through a call center in India that would perpetuate the scam by falsely telling the victims their computers had viruses and conducting phony work to pretend to repair the computer.	Ankur Khemani: 75 months' imprisonment; deportation. Marilyn Sterk: 30 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release. Jennifer Sterk: 3 years probation; \$109,324.18 restitution ordered joint and several; Teresa Sterk Vanbaale: 3 years probation; \$187,056.59 restitution ordered joint and several. Gaurav Bhasin: 40 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release. All defendants \$4,376,841.24 restitution ordered joint and several.	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Tennessee, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Tong</i>	24-cr-96	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Tong conspired with others to defraud an older victim by convincing her that her computer and bank accounts had been hacked. She ultimately paid over \$300,000 to Tong and others, believing that they would help her get her money back and/or prevent them from telling the police that child pornography was on her computer. No child pornography was actually on her computer.	Information	
USAO Tennessee, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Sun</i>	24-cr-73	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Sun conspired with others in a “pig butchering” scheme. An older victim thought he was investing his money into a cryptocurrency website. The website was actually a spoofed version of a legitimate website.	Indictment	
USAO Tennessee, Middle	<i>U.S. v. Swader</i>	3:24-cv-00999	Civil	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Romance Scam	Defendant operated as a money mule for Jamaican scammers. Shatika Swader assisted and facilitated one or more fraud schemes by accepting victim payments and providing those payments to participants of the fraud scheme.	N/A	
USAO Tennessee, Western	<i>U.S. v. Egbowawa</i>	23cr2012 3TLP	Criminal	Investment Fraud; Romance Scam	Five defendants, serving as money mules are charged with fraud and money laundering conspiracies. Victims are from all over the United States. The case started with a local victim who lost about \$500,000 through a romance scam and the scams grew from there. Among the five defendants, two have pled guilty, one is going to trial, one is in Canada and has consented to extradition but has not been turned over yet, and one is believed to be in Nigeria but has not yet been located.	Indictment; Convicted 1/10/2024; Sentenced 4/17/2024	Kay Ozegbe
USAO Texas, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Smith</i>	4:22cr236	Criminal	Fraud	Smith, age 62, carried out a scheme to defraud an older Plano man by telling him lies about urgent personal and family expenses that she was facing. Smith also convinced the victim that she was going to receive a lawsuit settlement for over \$2.5 million, and that she would use the money to pay the victim back for the money that he was giving to her. www.justice.gov/usao-edtx/pr/van-zandt-county-woman-sentenced-federal-prison-defrauding-elderly	20 months' imprisonment; \$47,236.94 restitution ordered	
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Hossain</i>	3:24-cr-342	Criminal	Investment Fraud	One defendant has been charged in connection with an investment fraud scam, with losses of approximately \$400,000 among the three victims.	Indictment	
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Johnson</i>	5:23cr12	Criminal	Identity Theft; COVID-19-Related Fraud	Johnson, age 59, admitted that he fraudulently applied for and obtained 27 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans totaling almost \$4 million. Prosecutors said that he used his older mother’s and an older aunt’s personally identifiable information and forged their signatures on loan documents. www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/pr/lubbock-man-sentenced-15-years-prison-4-million-ppp-fraud	Convicted 3/24/2023; Sentenced 8/24/2023 to 180 months' imprisonment; \$4,150,000 restitution; forfeiture of assets	
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Meares</i>	5:23-cr-099	Criminal	Mail Theft	The defendant targeted older adults by stealing checks they placed in the mail and forging and cashing the checks.	Indictment; Convicted 2/21/2024; Sentenced 6/6/2024 to 18 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Animashaun et al.</i>	3:21cr435	Criminal	Romance Scam	Okoro, age 33, and other fraudsters assumed fake names and trolled dating sites like Match.com and Zoosk, searching for targets and eventually asking for money for various reasons. www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/pr/romance-scammer-sentenced-10-years-federal-prison-ordered-pay-22m-restitution	120 months' imprisonment; \$2,200,000 restitution ordered	David Animashaun, Oluwalobamise Michael Moses, Emanuel Stanley Orji, Frederick Orji, Chukwuemeka Orji
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Animashaun</i>	3:21-cr-435-N	Criminal	Romance Scam	The defendants committed romance scams on the victims and asked for money for various reasons.	Indictment; Convicted 7/10/2023; Sentenced 3/11/2024 to 24 months' imprisonment	
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Sternadel</i>	7:23cr26	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Ms. Sternadel, age 43, a financial adviser at a large multi-national financial services firm, tricked clients, most of whom were older and some who were living with cognitive impairment, into sending her money and checks, which she deposited into her own accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/pr/financial-advisor-sentenced-12-million-fraud	Convicted 1/3/2024; Sentenced 4/26/2024 to 60 months' imprisonment	
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Keihn et al.</i>	4:23cr193	Criminal	Government Benefits Fraud	Peabody, age 34, and co-conspirators through an elaborate scheme exploited the SNAP program designed to aid vulnerable, low-income families. They stole directly from thousands of victims that needed those funds to purchase food and other necessary household items. www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/pr/liberian-man-sentenced-20-years-stealing-26m-snap-benefits-needy	240 months' imprisonment	Saybah Keihn, Margretta Jabbeh
USAO Texas, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Keihn</i>	4:23-cr-00193-P-3	Criminal	Government Benefits Fraud	Saybah Keihn, age 48, and his co-conspirators exploited a program designed to aid low-income families. They stole directly from thousands of victims that needed those funds to purchase food and other necessary household items.	Superseding Indictment; Pled guilty 9/6/2023; Sentenced 2/15/2024 to 108 months' imprisonment	James Peabody, Margretta Jabbeh
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Anim</i>	4:22cr321	Criminal	Romance Scam	Anim, age 39, admitted that from 2014 to 2019, he operated an unlicensed money transmitting business to launder funds from wire fraud schemes, including internet fraud and romance scams. Anim ran the unlicensed money transmitting business by using shell companies that existed only on paper. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/dual-citizen-gets-max-laundering-romance-scam-proceeds	Convicted 4/27/2023; Sentenced 7/28/2023 to 60 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$2,200,000 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Munigety</i>	4:21-cr-595	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	From 2019 to 2022, the defendants created shell companies and opened bank accounts to receive and transmit proceeds from fraud schemes, most notably tech support schemes. The defendants' accounts were shut down due to the nature of the money received and they were warned by law enforcement about the nature of the money received, but they continued to engage in the activity. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/conroe-man-charged-funneling-money-india	Superseding Indictment	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Laurendeau</i>	4:22-cr-214	Criminal	Investment Fraud	The defendant perpetrated a telemarketing scam targeting older victims in which he claimed that victims were owed returns from prior investments or web hosting services, but that the returns could not be paid until the victims first paid fees. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/houston-area-man-arrested-12m-nationwide-telemarketing-scheme	Indictment	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Vahora</i>	4:22-cr-440	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	The defendants were part of a domestic money laundering cell based in Chicago which moved fraud proceeds for call centers in India making scam calls to the United States. The cell began by liquidating gift cards in 2017 and picked up cash mailed in boxes in 2019 & 2020. The lead defendant (Vahora) was the manager of the cell.	Indictment; Convicted 10/23/2023	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Patel</i>	4:23-cr-218	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Defendants were part of a domestic money laundering cell based in Chicago which moved fraud proceeds for call centers in India making scam calls to the United States. The cell picked up cash mailed in boxes in 2019. The lead defendant (Hardik J. Patel) was the manager of the cell.	Indictment; Convicted 12/1/2023	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Smith</i>	4:23-cr-252	Criminal	Violence	Defendant carjacked and kidnapped an older woman.	Indictment	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Daniel</i>	4:23-cr-369	Criminal	Romance Scam	Defendants were part of a trade-based money laundering operation that received cash proceeds from internet scams originating from Nigeria.	Indictment	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Nahas</i>	7:22-cr-1311	Criminal	Healthcare Fraud	Dr. Osama Nahas, age 69, and Isabel Pruneda, age 53, ordered testing and performed examinations on older and disabled individuals at adult day centers without the consent of family members, caretakers, or guardians and without medical need in order to submit and receive reimbursement from Medicare and receive kickbacks. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/two-convicted-multimillion-dollar-adult-daycare-fraud-scheme	Indictment; Convicted 3/1/2024	Isabel Pruneda
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Ternion Group International LLC et al.</i>	4:24cr184	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Lenel Hopkins, age 52, Antoinette Monique Hopkins, age 42, Alichia Webster, age 60, Neil John Halvorson, age 65, and Victor Evans Jr., age 70, owned Ternion, a self-identified "Christian" company that claimed to be an international investment group performing construction projects and job training for believers. They promised investors high monetary returns and ownership in local development projects in exchange for large investment deposits into Ternion. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/members-religious-based-company-charged-elder-fraud-scheme-against-wwii-veteran	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Thomas et al.</i>	4:24cr20	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Regina Lynn Thomas, age 56, pretended to be a nurse and assisted a couple with caring for an older parent. Thomas' scheme involved informing the couple, currently overseas, that federal authorities wanted them for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) fraud, referred the couple to an "attorney", who was in reality Thomas' son and recipient of the fraudulent "attorney's fees." (https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/mother-and-son-duo-charged-1m-elder-fraud-scheme)	Indictment	Isaiah Thomas
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Hall</i>	4:22cr450	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	From 2017 through 2019, while acting as manager of a federal credit union, Hall, age 57, purposefully maintained an antiquated business practice which would not allow customers to access their accounts online. Hall admitted she was able to and did access at least two older customer accounts and misappropriated \$211,563.12 of their funds for her own personal gain. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/former-credit-union-manager-admits-embezzling-over-200000-elderly-client-accounts	4/23/2024 Pled guilty	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Akporugo et al.</i>	4:24cr9	Criminal	Romance Scam	Akporugo, age 46, a Nigerian man who resided in Fulshear, conspired with Sood, age 35, to contact older adults, typically widowed, and deceive them into transferring large sums of money through romance scams. With at least one Houston victim, after meeting online, the defendants approached the victim in person and drove the victim to banks to transfer money to accounts belonging to the fraud network. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/romance-scammers-charged-targeting-elderly-3m-fraud	Indictment	
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Azad</i>	4:20cr157	Criminal	Online Scams	Azad, 26, was a U.S.-based ringleader of a scam targeting older victims throughout the United States and elsewhere. The ring tricked and deceived victims using various ruses and instructed them to send money via wire through a money transmitter business such as Western Union or MoneyGram, by buying gift cards and providing the cards to the fraudsters, or by mailing cash to alias names via FedEx or UPS. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/ringleader-sent-prison-nationwide-fraud-scheme-targeting-elderly-victims	Convicted 8/15/2022; Sentenced 8/10/2023 to 188 months' imprisonment	Anirudha Kalkote, Sumit Kumar Singh, Himanshu Kumar, MD Hasib
USAO Texas, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Azad</i>	4:20cr157	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Indian citizen Hasib, age 28, and his four co-conspirators, participated in a tech support fraud ring targeting older adults from 2019-2020 which operated out of various cities including Houston. All defendants illegally resided in Houston. www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/five-sent-prison-nationwide-fraud-scheme-targeting-elderly-victims	78 months' imprisonment	MD Azad, Sumit Kumar Singh, Himanshu Kumar, Anirudha Kalkote
USAO Texas, Western	<i>U.S. v. Mikulencak</i>	1:23cr98	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Mikulencak, age 47, used her position at a federal credit union to steal from the older customers and from grieving family members of a deceased customer. www.justice.gov/usao-wdtx/pr/former-credit-union-employee-sentenced-austin-embezzlement	41 months' imprisonment; \$302,668 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Utah	<i>U.S. v. Adesotu et al.</i>	2:20cr284	Criminal	Romance Scam	Idowu, age 39, participated in an online romance scheme that involved creating fake online dating profiles to befriend and romance victims, mostly widowed and divorced women over 65 years of age. Idowu, and her co-conspirators, led these victims to believe the fake persona they were engaging with had an urgent and financial need, none of which were legitimate. www.justice.gov/usao-ut/pr/final-defendant-online-romance-scam-sentenced-72-months-imprisonment-ordered-pay-64m	72 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; \$6,400,000 restitution ordered	Emmanuel Osaigbovo Adesotu, Nnamdi Joel Chukwu, Julius Omene Fredrick
USAO Utah	<i>U.S. v. Bowser et al.</i>	2:23cr281	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Bowser, Ashby, Beynon, Nelson, Rutherford, Hamrick, and the Vice President and Director of Edmund and Wheeler Inc., conspired together to engage in a nationwide scheme to defraud investors through a Ponzi scheme. The victims, who were mostly retired and older individuals, were induced by fraudulent means to invest in Noah Event Centers, and the defendants misappropriated and diverted investor funds. www.justice.gov/usao-ut/pr/alleged-business-scammers-indicted-after-nationwide-scheme-defraud-investors-including	Indictment	
USAO Utah	<i>U.S. v. Odeyale et al.</i>	2:24cr42	Criminal	Romance Scam	Odeyale, age 39, Agbroko, age 34, Emurotu, age 40, Iwezu, age 44, Tsoitise, age 38, Okereke, age 38, and Ologban, age 44, worked with the Utah Money Transmitters, an entity that agreed to help overseas operators in Nigeria, known as the "Yahoo boys," launder money obtained from romance schemes targeting American citizens. www.justice.gov/usao-ut/pr/romance-scammers-accused-taking-more-love-victims-approximately-8m	Information	
USAO Utah	<i>U.S. v. Adesotu</i>	2:20-cr-284	Criminal	Romance Scam	The defendants operated a money laundering scheme that targeted older women in a so-called money laundering scam. The lead defendant was sentenced to time served and deported. The second defendant was sentenced to 46 months' imprisonment. The third defendant proceeded to trial, was convicted, and sentenced to 72 months' imprisonment. The fourth defendant received 12 months' and one day imprisonment.	Indictment; Convicted 8/31/2021; Sentenced 8/15/2023 to time served and deported	
USAO Utah	<i>U.S. v. Eziyi</i>	2:22-cr-160	Criminal	Romance Scam	The defendants robbed hundreds of victims of millions of dollars. Most victims were vulnerable emotionally and financially. The targeted victims were widowed and divorced women, mostly older adults. The lead defendant testified against a co-defendant who was convicted at trial.	Superseding Indictment; Convicted 11/14/2023; Sentenced 8/26/2024 to 12 months' imprisonment	
USAO Utah	<i>U.S. v. Fairbanks</i>	2:24-cr-81	Criminal	Investment Fraud; Failure to Appear for Sentencing	The defendant was convicted of investment fraud whereby he gained a position of trust with one victim and drained her bank accounts of her life savings, savings she earned working as teacher, bus driver, and small business owner. He then failed to appear for his sentencing and was charged for that derivative conduct.	Convicted 8/23/2024	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Utah	<i>U.S. v. Fairbanks</i>	1:19-cr-114	Criminal	Investment Fraud	Fairbanks, age 69, created a fraudulent entity and convinced at least two victims to invest with him. He took their money, did not invest as he said he would, did not return their money, and did not pay out the promised interest. Fairbanks gained a position of trust with one victim and drained her bank accounts of her life savings, savings she earned working as a teacher, bus driver, and small business owner.	Indictment; Convicted 8/30/2022; Sentenced 4/24/2024 to 27 months' imprisonment	
USAO Vermont	<i>U.S. v. Melanson</i>	2:22cr98	Criminal	Money Mule	Melanson, age 41, was instructed to travel from his home in New Hampshire to transport an older Vermont woman from her Windsor home to one or more banks to conduct transactions. Melanson facilitated multiple attempted or completed financial transactions, though many of the transactions were ultimately stopped or reversed. www.justice.gov/usao-vt/pr/manchester-new-hampshire-man-pleads-guilty-interstate-transportation-stolen-check	Pled guilty	
USAO Vermont	<i>U.S. v. Junaid</i>	2:23-cr-00125	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Junaid, age 28, targeted older adults by claiming in personal emails to be part of the "Geek Squad" - the business name for a computer service group associated with Best Buy, a national chain retailer. Older victims were defrauded into transferring funds from their bank account to accounts controlled by members of the conspiracy, funds that ultimately were sent to India.	Indictment	Nasir Hussain, Pradip Sau, Debalina Sen
USAO Vermont	<i>U.S v. Khalladi</i>	2:23-CR-34	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Khalladi participated in a grandparent scam in which individuals in Canada called older individuals throughout the United States portraying themselves as "grandchildren" who had been arrested and needed money for bond or a lawyer.	Indictment	
USAO Vermont	<i>U.S v. Comfort</i>	2:23-CR-48	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Comfort participated in a grandparent scam in which individuals in Canada called older individuals throughout the United States portraying themselves as "grandchildren" who had been arrested and needed money for bond or a lawyer.	Indictment	
USAO Vermont	<i>U.S v. Castillo</i>	2:24-CR-60	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Castillo participated in a grandparent scam in which individuals in Canada called older individuals throughout the United States portraying themselves as "grandchildren" who had been arrested and needed money for bond or a lawyer.	Indictment	
USAO Vermont	<i>U.S v. Audate</i>	2:24-CR-7	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Audate participated in a grandparent scam in which individuals in Canada called older individuals throughout the United States portraying themselves as "grandchildren" who had been arrested and needed money for bond or a lawyer.	Indictment	
USAO Vermont	<i>U.S v. Buchanan & Leblanc</i>	2:24-CR-51	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Buchanan and Leblanc participated in a grandparent scam in which individuals in Canada called older individuals throughout the United States portraying themselves as "grandchildren" who had been arrested and needed money for bond or a lawyer.	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Virginia, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Kayede</i>	1:23-cr-94	Criminal	Romance Scam; Investment Fraud	Ishmael Kayede, age 40, conspired and agreed with multiple co-conspirators to launder funds derived from mail or wire fraud schemes, including romance fraud, gold and diamond investment fraud, and other fraud scams that largely targeted older adults while working with and at the direction of associates located in foreign jurisdictions, including Ghana. www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/woodbridge-man-sentenced-defrauding-elderly-romance-fraud-scheme	Convicted 6/27/2023; Sentenced 9/21/2023 to 15 months' imprisonment	
USAO Virginia, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Chen</i>	1:22cr216	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Qinbin Chen, 29, masterminded a criminal conspiracy that obtained, trafficked, used, and laundered gift cards and debit cards purchased by victims, who were mostly older, from across the United States based on various fraud schemes. www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/leader-international-gift-card-fraud-scheme-convicted	9/15/23 Guilty verdict	He Li, Shouming Sun, Jin Hong, Yuchen Zhang, Mouluan Wu, Zhizhan Chen
USAO Virginia, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Stith</i>	3:23cr110	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud	Stith Jr., 41, allegedly perpetrated a scheme to defraud older homeowners in the Richmond Metro area by appearing at their homes and claiming that their slate roofs needed extensive repairs, which Stith offered to provide on a price-per-foot or price-per-material basis. Stith performed minimal work of poor quality while charging homeowners exorbitant fees. www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/man-charged-defrauding-elderly-homeowners-and-covid-19-relief-programs	Indictment; Convicted 1/18/2024; Sentenced 5/14/2024	
USAO Virginia, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Abdulraheem et al.</i>	1:23cr107	Criminal	Money Mule	Dasola Abdulraheem, 41, and Ismaila Abdulraheem, 44, both Nigerian nationals and formerly spouses, received the proceeds of various financial frauds into accounts that they controlled, and thereafter, conducted financial transactions with the proceeds to disguise the nature and source of the funds. Further, unknown co-conspirators targeted the victims of this scheme by gaining access to their financial accounts, typically retirement or investment accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/ex-spouses-indicted-laundering-money-stolen-retirement-and-investment-accounts	Indictment	
USAO Virginia, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Johnson</i>	3:22-cr-16	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Johnson, age 58, owned and operated Sharon Y. Johnson & Associates (SYJA) and fraudulently billed Medicaid for personal care services. Separately, Johnson also executed a scheme to defraud the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) of pension payments paid by the VRS to one of Johnson's unlicensed group home residents, diverting those funds for her own benefit. www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/owner-chester-unlicensed-group-home-sentenced-medicaid-and-vrs-fraud	51 months' imprisonment	
USAO Virginia, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Cruz</i>	3:23-cr-32	Criminal	Identity Theft	Cruz obtained an auto shop owner's personally identifiable information and used that information to take over the auto shop and its owner's accounting software, bank accounts, email addresses, and phone numbers, causing \$34,514.87 in losses.	Indictment; Convicted 5/23/2023; Sentenced 10/26/2023 to 42 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Virginia, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Qian</i>	1:24-cr-60	Criminal	Online Scams	Sunyu Qian, age 31, participated in a scheme to con people into purchasing gift cards that he used to acquire high-value items. Members of a criminal organization contacted individuals, mostly older victims, across the United States via telephone or email and, and through a variety of false pretenses, convinced them to purchase gift cards from large retailers and convey the gift card information to the fraudsters, including Qian. www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/fairfax-man-pleads-guilty-multiple-scams-totaling-over-million-dollars)	Pled guilty	
USAO Washington, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Ostenberg</i>	2:23cr31	Criminal	Violence	Ostenberg, age 18, and his partner began fighting in the bedroom of their residence on the Kalispel reservation. Ostenberg's partner began screaming and her grandfather and family friend rushed to her aid. Then, Ostenberg hit the grandfather in the head causing him to fall to the ground and lose consciousness. www.justice.gov/usao-edwa/pr/grand-coulee-man-sentenced-5-years-prison-violent-assault-against-partner-tribal	60 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	
USAO Washington, Western	<i>U.S. v. Davie</i>	3:22cr5189	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Davie, age 44, a former branch manager at Wells Fargo, used his authority to undertake unauthorized cash withdrawals, money transfers, and cashier's checks of older and vulnerable customers. www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/former-bank-manager-sentenced-3-years-prison-theft-customer-accounts	Sentenced 2/20/2024 to 42 months' imprisonment	
USAO Washington, Western	<i>U.S. v. Pathan</i>	2:21cr10/2:21mj2	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Victims received a telephone call from someone who claimed to be employed by the Social Security Administration, informing the victim that their Social Security number had been compromised, and the only way to protect the victim's money was to withdraw thousands of dollars in cash from their bank accounts and send it via UPS or FedEx to an "agent" elsewhere in the United States for safe keeping. Pathan, age 33, and co-conspirators picked up the packages and deposited the funds into various accounts. www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/money-mule-sentenced-one-year-prison-call-center-scheme-defrauded-victims-more-700000	Sentenced 12/1/2023 to 12 months and one day imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	
USAO West Virginia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Lantz</i>	2:23-CR-13	Criminal	Identity Theft; Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Starting in June 2021 and continuing for several months, Tosha Lantz used the personally identifiable information of her older father-in-law to obtain several credit cards in his name, causing a credit card debt of approximately \$9,700. Starting in July 2021 and continuing for several months, Lantz also stole approximately \$22,700 from his bank account, some of which she used to make payments on the fraudulently obtained credit cards.	Indictment; Sentenced 6/5/2024	
USAO West Virginia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Bunner, Samuel</i>	3:23cr53	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Bunner, age 51, defrauded the older victim who was living with dementia of \$1,906,229 by selling his real estate, emptying his investment and bank accounts, and opening a credit card in his name. Bunner used the money taken from the victim for his benefit, purchasing homes, campers, cars, and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of consumer goods. www.justice.gov/usao-ndwv/pr/individual-sentenced-over-ten-years-elder-financial-fraud	Sentenced 6/10/24 to 121 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; \$1,906,229 restitution ordered	Wendy Renee Bunner

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO West Virginia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Bunner, Wendy</i>	3:23cr53	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Wendy Renee Bunner, age 48, defrauded an older person living with dementia. Spouse Samuel Bunner defrauded the same victim of \$1,906,229 by selling his real estate, emptying his investment and bank accounts, and opening a credit card in his name. Together, the Bunnars used the money taken from the older victim for their own personal benefit and purchased homes, campers, cars, and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of consumer goods. www.justice.gov/usao-ndwv/pr/florida-woman-admits-elder-financial-fraud	Pled guilty	Samuel Bunner
USAO West Virginia, Northern	<i>U.S. v. Beach</i>	3:23cr66	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Beach, age 54, was the fiduciary for his father, who is under the care of a veterans' care facility and receives monthly benefits. As the fiduciary, Beach received his father's veteran's disability, retirement, and Social Security payments but used them for his own benefit. www.justice.gov/usao-ndwv/pr/berkeley-county-man-admits-elder-financial-abuse	3/12/24 Pled guilty	
USAO West Virginia, Southern	<i>U.S. v. Parsons</i>	2:23-cr-73	Criminal	Relative/Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Parsons, 47, admitted to a scheme to defraud an older individual in her care in which she secretly gained access to the older individual's bank account information and fraudulently conducted numerous online transactions to pay for goods and services for herself and her friends, and made numerous other unauthorized transactions. www.justice.gov/usao-sdvw/pr/jackson-county-woman-pleads-guilty-wire-fraud	9/5/2023 Pled guilty	
USAO Wisconsin, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Cortez</i>	24-cr-048	Criminal	Violence	A 63-year-old woman who lives in senior housing was targeted by two armed and masked defendants. They waited for her to drive into her building, pointed a gun at her, took her car, purse, money, and cell phone.	Indictment	
USAO Wisconsin, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Fenton-Johnson</i>	24-cr-29	Criminal	Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam	This was a typical lottery scheme in which the victims had to pay some money to claim their prizes.	Indictment	
USAO Wisconsin, Eastern	<i>U.S. v. Daly</i>	2:23cr78	Criminal	Charity Scam	Daly, age 51, and his co-conspirator Nathanael Pendley—both lawyers—operated a political action committee (the "Draft PAC") that solicited donations by promising donors their money would be used to convince David Clarke, Jr., the former Sheriff of Milwaukee County, to campaign for a seat in the United States Senate, but was instead used for their personal benefit. The scheme targeted vulnerable victims, including a woman with Alzheimer's and older veterans. www.justice.gov/usao-edwi/pr/north-carolina-lawyer-sentenced-prison	Sentenced 12/15/2023 to 4 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; \$69,978.37 restitution ordered; \$69,978.37 forfeiture; \$20,000 fine	Nathanael Pendley
USAO Wisconsin, Western	<i>U.S. v. Hansen et al.</i>	3:23cr82	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Fraud	Tyler Hansen entered into contracts for home improvement projects with customers knowing that he did not intend to order supplies for the jobs or otherwise start the projects. Hansen required that customers, including older customers, pay 50% of the total contract price as a down payment. Rather than use the money to pay project related expenses, Hansen used the money for personal expenses. Hansen, together with his wife, Jennifer Hansen, also engaged in money laundering. www.justice.gov/usao-wdwi/pr/fort-atkinson-home-improvement-contractor-and-his-wife-sentenced-prison-fraud-and	Tyler Hansen: 84 months' imprisonment. Jennifer Hansen: 33 months' imprisonment.	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Fraud Type	Brief Description and Press Release URL (if available)	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendants
USAO Wisconsin, Western	<i>U.S. v. Anti</i>	3:23cr22	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam	Anti, 61 and a citizen of Ghana, controlled 14 separate bank accounts under 9 false identities and fraudulent business names. He used those bank accounts to collect and launder more than \$3.8 million in proceeds from wire fraud schemes perpetrated on business and organization victims throughout the United States. www.justice.gov/usao-wdwi/pr/ghanian-citizen-sentenced-6-years-money-laundering	72 months' imprisonment	
USAO Wisconsin, Western	<i>U.S. v. Ramos-Soto</i>	3:23cr103	Criminal	Grandparent/Relative in Distress Scam	Ramos-Soto, age 26, was conspiring with others to defraud Wisconsin residents. The indictment alleges that from October 24 to 28, 2022, unknown conspirators contacted older individuals by telephone and falsely represented that a relative had been arrested following an accident and that money for bail was needed. www.justice.gov/usao-wdwi/pr/connecticut-man-charged-fraud-scheme-involving-elderly-victims	Indictment	
USTP, Region 13, Kansas City, Missouri	<i>In re Evans</i>	Adv. Proc. No. 23-03001; Related Case No. 22-30177	Bankruptcy	False Oaths; Failure to Disclose	Debtor made false oaths in her chapter 7 bankruptcy case by failing to disclose older mother as a creditor despite using funds from mother's credit cards and bank account to accumulate thousands of dollars of gambling losses.	Chapter 7 discharge denied	
USTP, Region 4, District of Columbia	<i>In re McGrath</i>	No. 24-00014	Bankruptcy	Bankruptcy Petition Preparer – Improper Assistance	After a bankruptcy court barred the defendant bankruptcy petition preparer from signing an older individual's name using a purported power of attorney, the defendant filed three more chapter 13 cases on the debtor's behalf.	Monetary fine; Injunction	