

**FILED IN CHAMBERS**  
**U.S.D.C. Atlanta**

**ORIGINAL**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION

APR 18 2011

**JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk**  
By: *James N. Hatten*  
**Deputy Clerk**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :  
 :  
 v. :  
 :  
 POUL THORSEN :

CRIMINAL INDICTMENT

NO. **1:11-CR-194**

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

COUNTS ONE THROUGH THIRTEEN  
(Wire Fraud)

1. Beginning on a date unknown, but at least by in or about February 2004, and continuing until in or about February 2010, in the Northern District of Georgia and elsewhere, the defendant, POUL THORSEN, aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did knowingly devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by omission of material facts, well knowing and having reason to know that said pretenses, representations, and promises were and would be false and fraudulent when made and caused to be made and that said omissions were and would be material.

2. Beginning in or about 2000, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, awarded grant money to Denmark for research involving infant disabilities, autism, genetic disorders,

and fetal alcohol syndrome. The CDC awarded the grant to fund studies of the relationship between autism and the exposure to vaccines, the relationship between cerebral palsy and infection during pregnancy, and the relationship between developmental outcomes and fetal alcohol exposure.

3. Defendant THORSEN worked as a visiting scientist at the CDC, Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, when the CDC was soliciting the grant applications. Defendant THORSEN promoted the idea of awarding the grant to Denmark for studies related to infant disabilities. Defendant THORSEN scheduled meetings with the Danish Medical Research Council, Aarhus University, and Odense University Hospital about the proposed Danish research. In addition to initiating the meetings, defendant THORSEN provided guidance and ideas for the grant that the CDC ultimately awarded to Denmark.

4. The CDC initially awarded the grant to the Danish Medical Research Council and then, beginning in or about 2007, to the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI), both of which were governmental agencies in Denmark. From 2000 through 2009, the CDC awarded over \$7 million to the Danish Medical Research Council and over \$4 million to DASTI, totaling over \$11 million, for the Danish research studies.

5. Aarhus University and Odense University Hospital administered the CDC grant under the direction of a principal

investigator, who was assigned scientific and administrative oversight.

6. In 2002, after CDC awarded the grant, defendant THORSEN went to Denmark and became the principal investigator, responsible for administering the research money awarded by the CDC to Denmark. Defendant THORSEN also held a faculty position at Aarhus University, where scientists performed research under the grant. In those positions, he submitted invoices for payment to Aarhus University and Odense University Hospital for work and expenses related to the CDC grant.

7. In or about May 2007 and March 2008, defendant THORSEN submitted fraudulent letters to DASTI, purportedly signed by grant management officers at the CDC, that falsely stated that the CDC had awarded grant money, and that certain funds were available, to DASTI under the grant. Defendant THORSEN forged the CDC employees' signatures on the letters. Based on the misrepresentations in these letters, DASTI released funds for work and expenses that defendant THORSEN claimed were associated with the CDC grant.

8. From in or about February 2004 through in or about June 2008, defendant THORSEN submitted over a dozen fraudulent invoices, purportedly signed by a laboratory section chief at the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, for reimbursement of expenses that defendant THORSEN claimed were incurred in connection with the CDC grant. The invoices falsely

claimed that a CDC laboratory had performed work under the grant for which Aarhus University owed money. Based on the misrepresentations in these invoices, Aarhus University wire transferred hundreds of thousands of dollars to accounts held at the CDC Federal Credit Union in Atlanta, Georgia. Aarhus University believed that the accounts, which were identified in the fraudulent invoices, belonged to the CDC.

9. In truth, the CDC Federal Credit Union accounts were personal accounts held by defendant THORSEN. He used the accounts to steal money under the CDC grant.

10. After the money was transferred to defendant THORSEN's accounts, he moved the money among multiple CDC Federal Credit Union accounts and eventually withdrew it for his own personal use. Defendant THORSEN purchased a home in Atlanta, a Harley Davidson motorcycle, and Audi and Honda vehicles with the proceeds of his fraud. He also obtained numerous cashier's checks made out to himself from the fraudulent proceeds deposited at the CDC Federal Credit Union.

11. Defendant THORSEN obtained over \$1 million from his scheme to defraud.

12. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Northern District of Georgia and elsewhere, the defendant, POUL THORSEN, aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, and for the purpose of executing the aforementioned scheme and

artifice to defraud, transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs, signals, and sounds, that is, wire transfers in the following amounts from accounts held by Aarhus University in Denmark to accounts held by defendant THORSEN at the CDC Federal Credit Union in Atlanta, Georgia:

COUNT	DATE	AMOUNT
1	12/4/2006	\$24,708.00
2	1/16/2007	\$43,406.00
3	2/22/2007	\$30,409.00
4	3/15/2007	\$56,506.00
5	3/22/2007	\$17,520.00
6	6/18/2007	\$121,961.00
7	1/16/2008	\$47,171.76
8	4/1/2008	\$47,219.00
9	5/2/2008	\$65,928.00
10	6/26/2008	\$23,602.00
11	6/26/2008	\$23,602.00
12	10/29/2008	\$23,602.00
13	10/29/2008	\$23,602.00

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2.

**COUNTS FOURTEEN THROUGH TWENTY-TWO**  
**(Money Laundering)**

13. The Grand Jury re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 11 of this Indictment as if fully set forth

herein.

14. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Northern District of Georgia and elsewhere, the defendant, POUL THORSEN, aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly engaged in and attempted to engage in the monetary transactions described below in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, consisting of the deposit, withdrawal, transfer, and exchange, in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, of funds and monetary instruments by, through, and to a financial institution, such property having been derived from specified unlawful activity, that is, a scheme to defraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2:

COUNT	DATE	TRANSACTION	AMOUNT	PAYEE
14	5/30/2006	Withdrawal by personal check from CDC Federal Credit Union (FCU) account no. ending 3353	\$33,994.57	Stone Mountain Harley Davidson
15	7/27/2006	Withdrawal by cashier's check from CDC FCU account no. ending 0698	\$52,892.25	THORSEN
16	12/5/2006	Transfer from CDC FCU account no. ending 1335	\$19,071.00	J.H. (CDC FCU account no. ending 0698)
17	1/17/2007	Transfer from CDC FCU account no. ending 1335	\$19,271.00	J.H. (CDC FCU account no. ending 0698)

18	3/16/2007	Transfer from CDC FCU account no. ending 8562	\$56,400.00	THORSEN (CDC FCU account no. ending 1335)
19	6/26/2007	Withdrawal by cashier's check from CDC FCU account no. ending 0698	\$17,338.00	THORSEN
20	5/5/2008	Transfer from CDC FCU account no. ending 1335	\$21,746.56	THORSEN (CDC FCU account no. ending 2920)
21	6/30/2008	Withdrawal by cashier's check from CDC FCU account no. ending 0698	\$11,041.00	THORSEN
22	10/29/2008	Transfer from CDC FCU account no. ending 8562	\$47,200.00	THORSEN (CDC FCU account no. ending 1335)

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

FORFEITURE PROVISION

15. Upon conviction of one or more of the wire fraud offenses alleged in Counts 1 through 13 of this Indictment, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, the defendant, POUL THORSEN, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C), 1956(c)(7), and 1961(1), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offenses, including but not limited to the following:

(A) MONEY JUDGMENT

A sum of money equal to the amount of proceeds the defendant obtained as a result of the offenses.

(B) REAL PROPERTY

- (1) 2657 Briarlake Road, Atlanta, DeKalb County, Georgia 30345, and all buildings and appurtenances thereon, more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 206 of the 18th District, DeKalb County, Georgia, and being Lot 31, The Woods of Briarlake as per plat recorded in Plat Book 90, Page 72, DeKalb County, Georgia records, which plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference.

(C) CONVEYANCES

- (1) 2008 Honda CR-V EX-L, VIN 5J6RE48728L040280.
- (2) 2004 Audi S4 Avant Quattro, VIN WAUXL68E84A145888.
- (3) 2006 FLSTFSE2 Harley Davidson motorcycle, VIN 1HD1PNF146Y955597.

16. Upon conviction of one or more of the money laundering offenses alleged in Counts 14 through 22 of this Indictment, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957, defendant THORSEN shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), any and all property, real or personal, involved in such offenses and all property traceable to such offenses, including but not limited to the following:

(A) MONEY JUDGMENT

A sum of money equal to the total value of property involved in each offense for which defendant THORSEN is liable.

(B) REAL PROPERTY

- (1) 2657 Briarlake Road, Atlanta, DeKalb County, Georgia 30345, and all buildings and appurtenances thereon, more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 206 of the 18th District, DeKalb County, Georgia, and being Lot 31, The Woods of Briarlake as per plat recorded in Plat Book 90, Page 72, DeKalb County, Georgia records, which plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference.

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17. If, as a result of any act or omission of defendant THORSEN, any property subject to forfeiture:

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

the United States intends, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b) and/or Title 28, United States Code, Section

2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of defendant THORSEN, up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

A True BILL

Ann C Austin  
FOREPERSON

SALLY QUILLIAN YATES  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

*Stephen H. McClain*

STEPHEN H. McCLAIN  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
600 U.S. Courthouse  
75 Spring Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404/581-6288  
Georgia Bar No. 143186