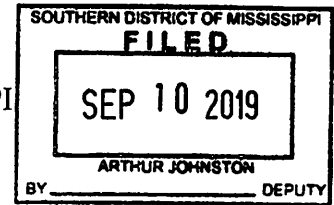


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

KEVIN EDWARDS and
SHEENA A. EDWARDS

SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT
CRIMINAL NO.: 3:19-CR-037HTW-LRA

18 U.S.C. § 1163
18 U.S.C. § 1343
18 U.S.C. § 1956(a), (h)
18 U.S.C. § 1014

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT 1

(Embezzlement and Theft From Indian Tribal Organizations: 18 U.S.C. § 1163)

1. From on or about March 2015, through on or about June 2017, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, in Neshoba County in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, and elsewhere, the defendant, **KEVIN EDWARDS**, did embezzle, abstract, purloin, willfully misapply, take and carry away with intent to steal, and knowingly convert to his own use the moneys, funds, and credits belonging to an Indian tribal organization, that is the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, in excess of \$1,000, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1163 and 2.

COUNTS 2-3

(Wire Fraud: 18 U.S.C. § 1343)

THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE TO DEFRAUD

2. Beginning no later than March 2015 and continuing through June 2017, in Neshoba County in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi and elsewhere, the defendant, **KEVIN EDWARDS**, aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did knowingly and intentionally devise and execute a scheme and artifice to defraud Tribal

government by submitting false and fraudulent expenses for reimbursement, misappropriating and converting Tribal funds to **EDWARDS's** own benefit and the benefit of others without the knowledge or authorization of the Tribal government.

3. Defendant **EDWARDS** falsely and fraudulently represented to Tribal employees that he had incurred, and was due reimbursement for, travel expenses in the amounts he submitted and attempted to substantiate with supporting documents and receipts. The object was to cause the Tribal government to pay **EDWARDS** moneys in excess of what costs he had actually incurred during official travel. In fact, **EDWARDS** had either incurred lower costs, or in some instances not travelled at all in the mode or time period claimed, and was not entitled to such payments. In furtherance of the scheme and artifice to defraud, **EDWARDS** falsely and fraudulently represented to the Tribal government that he had travelled and spent the amounts detailed in his submissions, when in fact he had paid less than claimed, or had not travelled at all as described.

4. In furtherance of the scheme and artifice to defraud, defendant **EDWARDS** requested travel advances from the Tribal government prior to official business travel. **EDWARDS** received the travel advances as checks and proceeded to cash those checks. In support of the travel advance requests, **EDWARDS** indicated destination hotels or resorts on itineraries for those travels. Often, **EDWARDS** caused reservations to be made for his stay at one or another hotel or resort.

5. In furtherance of the scheme and artifice, **EDWARDS** and others created false documents to support fraudulent claims for reimbursement. Specifically, **EDWARDS** and others created false, altered, or counterfeit hotel bills and invoices purporting to be receipts for lodging.

The lodging receipts contained forged entries for inflated amounts and excess days beyond the days when **EDWARDS** actually stayed at the billed hotel.

6. In furtherance of the scheme and artifice, **EDWARDS** also submitted requests for per diem meal reimbursement and for mileage travelled, on occasions when he did not travel at all or stay at the hotel where he had claimed.

7. Instead of using the money paid for the claimed official travel on behalf of the Tribal government for the purpose of travel expenses, **EDWARDS** used the proceeds for other fraudulent purposes and to benefit himself and others personally.

Use of Wire Communications

8. Paragraphs 1 through 7 are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

9. Beginning on or about March 2015, and continuing through on or about June 2017, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, in Neshoba County in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, and elsewhere, the defendant, **KEVIN EDWARDS**, aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did knowingly and with intent to defraud, devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain moneys, funds, and other property, that is Tribal government reimbursement of travel expenses for lodging, meals and mileage, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, knowing that the pretenses, representations, and promises were false and fraudulent when made, and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice to defraud and for obtaining money and property, and attempting to do so, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted in interstate

and foreign commerce by means of wire communications, writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds.

10. On or about the dates listed below, in Neshoba County, in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, and elsewhere, for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, the defendant, **KEVIN EDWARDS**, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted, in interstate and foreign commerce, by means of wire communications, certain writings, signals, pictures and sounds, as more particularly described for each count below:

COUNT	DATE	WIRE COMMUNICATION
2	July 26, 2015	Interstate wire communication to reserve a hotel room at Hutchinson Island Marriott, in Stuart, Florida.
3	June 30, 2016	Interstate wire communication to charge credit card account, in payment of no-show charge for room reserved at Sheraton Arlington Hotel, in Arlington, Texas.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1349.

COUNT 4

(Money Laundering Conspiracy: 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h))

11. Paragraphs 1 through 10 are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

12. From on or about March 1, 2015, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, through on or about December 31, 2018, in Leake County in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, and elsewhere, the defendants, **KEVIN EDWARDS and SHEENA A. EDWARDS**, did knowingly combine, conspire and agree together and with persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury to commit offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, to wit:

a. To knowingly conduct and attempt to conduct a financial transaction affecting

interstate and foreign commerce, which involved the proceeds of a specified unlawful activity, that is wire fraud, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, that is wire fraud, and money laundering, and that while conducting and attempting to conduct such financial transaction knew that the property involved in the financial transaction represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i); and

b. To knowingly conduct and attempt to conduct a financial transaction affecting interstate and foreign commerce, which involved the proceeds of a specified unlawful activity, that is, wire fraud, knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership and control of the proceeds of the specified unlawful activity, and that while conducting and attempting to conduct such financial transactions, knew that the property involved in the financial transaction represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

MANNER AND MEANS

13. The manner and means used to accomplish the objectives of the conspiracy included, among others, the following:

14. Defendant **KEVIN EDWARDS**, aided and abetted by others, received checks from the Tribal government which were proceeds of specified unlawful activity.

15. Defendant **KEVIN EDWARDS** cashed some of those Tribal government reimbursement checks, and handed the resulting cash over to defendant **SHEENA A. EDWARDS**.

16. Defendant **KEVIN EDWARDS** handed some of those Tribal government

reimbursement checks directly over to defendant **SHEENA A. EDWARDS**.

17. Defendant **SHEENA A. EDWARDS** deposited those checks and cash, which she received from **KEVIN EDWARDS**, into her own bank accounts and as payments against her own bank loan debts.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

COUNTS 5-6

(Money Laundering: 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(A)(1), (a)(1)(B)(1))

18. Paragraphs 1 through 11 are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

19. On or about the dates specified in the Counts below, in Leake County in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, and elsewhere, the defendants, **KEVIN EDWARDS and SHEENA A. EDWARDS**, aided and abetted by others, as set forth below according to each Count, did knowingly conduct, and attempt to conduct, financial transactions affecting interstate and foreign commerce which involved proceeds of a specified unlawful activity, knowing that the transactions were designed in whole and in part, to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of the specified unlawful activity, and to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, and while conducting and attempting to conduct such financial transactions knew that the property involved in the financial

transactions represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity:

COUNT	DATE	FINANCIAL TRANSACTION
5	July 15, 2015	Deposit of Check in amount of \$1064.69 from the account of MBCI at Trustmark Bank, payable to KEVIN EDWARDS , into the accounts of SHEENA A. EDWARDS at Trustmark Bank, plus cash out, in Carthage, Mississippi.
6	October 20, 2016	Deposit of Check in the amount of \$1049.18 from the account of MBCI at Trustmark Bank, payable to KEVIN EDWARDS , into the accounts of SHEENA A. EDWARDS , plus cash out, at Trustmark Bank, in Carthage, Mississippi.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(a)(1)(A)(1), 1956(a)(1)(B)(1), and 2.

20. It is further alleged that the specified unlawful activity was wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, punishable by the laws of the United States.

COUNTS 7-9

(False Statements in Loan Application: 18 U.S.C. § 1014)

21. At all times relevant to this Superseding Indictment, First Financial Bank was a financial institution as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 20, and insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

22. On or about set forth in the table below, in Leake County in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, defendants **KEVIN EDWARDS and SHEENA A. EDWARDS** knowingly made a false statement and report for the purpose of influencing the action of First Financial Bank, a financial institution as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1920, in connection with a loan application, in that the defendants made the indicated false statements, when in truth and in fact, as the defendants well knew, that statement was not true but the truth was instead as indicated below.

COUNT	DATE	DEFENDANT(S)	FALSE STATEMENT MADE	TRUTH KNOWN TO DEFENDANT(S)
7	November 5, 2014	KEVIN EDWARDS	Gross monthly salary of \$22,500	Actual salary was lower
8	August 11, 2017	KEVIN EDWARDS and SHEENA A. EDWARDS	KEVIN EDWARDS had gross monthly salary of \$22,500	KEVIN EDWARDS was no longer employed at MBCI
9	August 29, 2017	KEVIN EDWARDS	Gross monthly salary of \$22,500	KEVIN EDWARDS was no longer employed at MBCI

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1014 and 2.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK CRIMINAL FORFEITURE

As a result of committing the offenses as alleged in this Indictment, the defendants shall forfeit to the United States all property involved in or traceable to property involved in the offenses, including but not limited to all proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the offenses, and all property used to facilitate the offenses. Further, if any property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant: (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party; (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 divided without difficulty, then it is the intent

of the United States to seek a judgment of forfeiture of any other property of the defendant, up to the value of the property described in this notice or any bill of particulars supporting it.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C); and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461.

D. Michael Hurst, Jr.

D. MICHAEL HURST, JR.
United States Attorney

A TRUE BILL:
S/ SIGNATURE REDACTED
Foreperson of the Grand Jury

This Indictment was returned in open court by the foreperson or deputy foreperson of the Grand Jury on this the 10th day of September, 2019

[Signature]

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE