

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Impersonator Arrested for Defrauding Elderly Victims, Impersonating Federal and Territorial Officials, and Obstruction of Justice

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ST. THOMAS — United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert for the District of the Virgin Islands announced that a federal complaint has been filed charging Yamini Potter with eighty counts of wire fraud, two counts of impersonating a federal judge, obstruction of justice in violation of federal law, two counts of acting in assumed character, and one count of grand larceny in violation of Virgin Islands law.

According to the affidavit filed in this case, between May 2019 and July 2020, Potter received over \$100,000 from the victims, at least one of whom is elderly, for purported

legal fees associated with a lawsuit filed against the United States. Potter claimed he could assist the victims with a lawsuit to obtain a money judgment and return of one of the victim's medical licenses. Investigators located no such lawsuit anywhere in the United States. Potter is not a licensed attorney in any jurisdiction in the United States.

Initially, Potter claimed to be the son of former Lt. Governor Osbert Potter. According to court documents, Yamini Potter is not Osbert Potter's son. The affidavit alleges that Potter used this supposed familial connection to influence his victims to pay money for the alleged lawsuit and claimed that the victims could expect to recover millions of dollars. The affidavit further alleges that, Potter also impersonated Osbert Potter, former federal District Judge Curtis Gomez, federal Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller, and Virgin Islands Attorney General Denise George for fraudulent purposes. According to the affidavit, Potter telephoned his victims pretending to be various people, including himself, while he was detained in the Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections, pending charges in the Virgin Islands Superior Court. All of his calls were recorded. Potter also allegedly sent text messages to the victims as part of his fraudulent scheme, and in at least one case, tried to persuade the victims to destroy text messages he sent to them.

According to court documents, Potter pleaded guilty in 2015 to impersonating an FBI agent in violation of federal law. He was sentenced to one year in prison.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Virgin Islands Police Department, and the Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Alessandra P. Serano.

United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert encourages anyone, and especially elderly victims, who may be a victim of fraud – or of any other crime - to come forward and make a report to the FBI at (340) 777-3363. U.S. Attorney Shappert also reminds the public that a criminal complaint is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.