

# The Miami Herald

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**HEADLINE:** ATTORNEYS ARRESTED IN  
FAKE INJURY SCAM

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## **BODY:**

At least five attorneys have been charged this month with bilking Miami-Dade County out of tens of thousands of dollars in fake personal injury claims dating back to 1995.

Assistant State Attorney Michael Spivack declined to comment on the case Friday, but sources close to the investigation say more arrests - up to 10 - are expected.

The latest arrests are part of an ongoing investigation dubbed "Operation Risky Business" by the Miami-Dade Police public corruption unit.

They come nearly one year after 18 people were busted for stealing at least \$500,000 of public money by filing dozens of fake claims against the county.

## **PREVIOUS ARRESTS**

Those arrested last year were four lawyers, six medical clinic employees, five county workers and three others who conspired to rig

injury claims so that people won settlements of up to \$10,000 each.

Some claimants didn't exist; they were dead relatives of the people involved.

On Tuesday, lawyer Julio Arango was charged with federal racketeering law violations based on the testimony of a county claims adjuster in the risk management department who had been arrested last May.

An affidavit filed in Miami-Dade Circuit Court alleges that Arango, 58, of 1901 Brickell Ave., paid claims adjuster Julio Garcia and a county litigation specialist, Miguel Salomon, on four occasions to approve bogus claims for a total of \$33,500.

The affidavit says he paid them a total of \$1,000.

Arango's federal charges carry stiffer penalties than state charges. He was also charged with four counts of unlawful compensation. He posted \$40,000 bond and could not be reached for comment Friday evening.

Lawyer David Sostchin, 56, was also charged Tuesday under federal RICO statutes. Additionally, court records show four charges of unlawful compensation.

Reached Friday night at his North Miami Beach home, Sostchin said he couldn't comment.

## **FORBIDDEN TO TALK**

"I'd love to talk to the press, but I have an attorney and he has forbidden me to talk," Sostchin said. His attorney, Ivan Tobias, could not be reached.

Garcia, the claims adjuster, also testified against lawyer Raul Cossio, 49, of Key Largo.

A second affidavit shows Cossio, charged last week with two counts of unlawful compensation, paid Garcia and Salomon \$550 for their help approving two claims totaling \$20,000.

Cossio, who paid a \$10,000 bond, could not be reached for comment.

Lawyer Herman Klemick, 52, was also charged last week with two counts of unlawful compensation, according to court records. Klemick, of 6803 Sunrise Dr. in Coral Gables, apparently pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years probation, according to court records.

Klemick, reached at his home early Friday evening, declined to comment.

His attorney, Arturo Alvarez, could not be reached.

Another lawyer Charles Appel, 69, was arrested earlier this month, on May 5. No information was available from court records on the disposition of the Pinecrest resident's case or his bond amount. Appel could not be reached Friday evening.