BISSEP - I PH 3: LERK U.S. BISTRICT CO CENTRAL BIST OF CA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

January 2015 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

STEPHEN YOUNG KANG,

Defendant.

CR No. 15 R 75 - 0478

<u>I</u> <u>N</u> <u>D</u> <u>I</u> <u>C</u> <u>T</u> <u>M</u> <u>E</u> <u>N</u> <u>T</u>

[18 U.S.C. § 1343: Wire Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 1957: Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity]

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNTS ONE THROUGH TWENTY

[18 U.S.C. § 1343]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

- 1. At all times relevant to this Indictment:
- a. Defendant STEPHEN YOUNG KANG ("defendant KANG") resided in Newport Beach, California, in Orange County, within the Central District of California.
- b. Defendant KANG was an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and the State of Texas.
- c. Defendant KANG exercised control over the following bank accounts:

16

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

- i. Wells Fargo Bank Account Number xxxxxx6600 in the name of Stephen Kang, Attorney at Law ("Kang Account 6600");
- ii. Wells Fargo Bank Account Number xxxxxx8639 in the name of Gulf Technologies, Inc. ("Gulf Account 8639"); and
- iii. Amegy Bank Account Number xxx2567 in the name of SGK Holdings Inc. ("SGK Account 2567").
- d. C.K. and S.K. are a married couple that resided in Laguna Woods, California.
- e. Ottogi America, Inc. ("Ottogi") was a California corporation, with its principal place of business in Gardena, California.
- f. To obtain an EB-5 immigration visa, an individual must invest \$1,000,000 in a commercial enterprise in the United States (or \$500,000 in a targeted high unemployment or rural area) that would create or preserve ten permanent full-time jobs for qualified United States workers.

B. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

2. Beginning in or about July 2011, and continuing through in or about at least October 2014, in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant KANG, knowingly and with intent to defraud, devised, participated in, and executed a scheme to defraud clients to whom defendant KANG had agreed to provide legal or investment services, including, but not limited to, C.K., S.K., and Ottogi, as to material matters, and to obtain money and property from such victims by means of material false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and the concealment of material facts.

- a. In or about July 2011, defendant KANG agreed to provide legal and investment services to C.K. and S.K. in connection with the filing of an EB-5 immigration visa application. Defendant KANG represented to C.K. and S.K. that he would assist with the EB-5 visa process and invest C.K. and S.K.'s money in a manner that would facilitate the filing of the EB-5 visa application.
- b. In reliance on defendant KANG's representation that he would invest C.K. and S.K.'s money in manner that would facilitate the EB-5 visa process and in accordance with defendant KANG's instructions, between in or about July 2011 and in or about December 2011, C.K. and S.K. wired a total of approximately \$1,015,000 to SGK Account 2567.
- c. In truth and in fact, defendant did not invest C.K. and S.K.'s money in a manner that would facilitate the filing of C.K. and S.K.'s EB-5 visa application. Instead, defendant KANG used all or part of C.K. and S.K.'s money for his own personal and business expenses, and to pay other individuals who had invested money with defendant KANG.
- d. To conceal the fact that he had diverted C.K. and S.K.'s investment for his own purposes and to pay other individuals who invested money with defendant KANG, when C.K. and S.K. demanded a return of their investment funds, defendant KANG used money he received from other clients, including Ottogi, to repay a portion of C.K. and S.K.'s investment.
- e. Starting as early as October 2012 and continuing through at least August 2014, defendant KANG agreed to act as

Ottogi's legal representative in connection with the purchase of certain real estate lots (the "target lots") in Gardena, California on Ottogi's behalf. To facilitate defendant KANG's legal representation of Ottogi, defendant KANG caused Ottogi executives to execute power of attorney agreements, which provided defendant KANG and N.H. (an attorney in Houston, Texas) with authority to use Ottogi funds in connection with the purchase of the target lots on Ottogi's behalf.

- f. In reliance on defendant KANG's representations to Ottogi and in accordance with the terms of the power of attorney agreements defendant KANG caused Ottogi's executives to execute, between October 2012 and March 2014, Ottogi wired a total of approximately \$3.7 million from Ottogi's bank accounts in Los Angeles, California, into Prosperity Bank Account Number xxxxxxx3161, which was an Interest on Lawyer's Trust Account ("IOLTA") located in Texas in the name of TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE FDN and associated with the law office of N.H. (the "Prosperity Trust Account 3161"). Based on defendant KANG's representations, Ottogi believed that the funds transferred to Prosperity Trust Account 3161 would be used for the purchase of the target lots on Ottogi's behalf.
- g. In truth and in fact, defendant KANG did not use the money Ottogi transferred into Prosperity Trust Account 3161 to purchase the target lots on Ottogi's behalf and did not purchase the target lots on Ottogi's behalf. Instead, after Ottogi wired money into the Prosperity Trust Account 3161, defendant KANG caused the vast majority of Ottogi's money to be transferred from Prosperity Trust Account 3161 to other bank accounts that defendant KANG controlled. Defendant KANG then used all or part of the Ottogi money

that was diverted into the accounts he controlled for his own personal and business expenses, and to pay other individuals who had invested money with defendant KANG. Defendant KANG also caused Ottogi funds to be directly transferred from Prosperity Trust Account 3161 to C.K. to repay a portion of the EB-5 visa-related investment money C.K. and S.K. provided to defendant KANG.

C. THE USE OF THE WIRES

On or about the following dates, in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant KANG, for the purpose of executing the above-described scheme to defraud, transmitted and caused the transmission of the following items by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce:

14	COLDIN	Tarana -	
14	COUNT	DATE	ACT
15	ONE	7/28/2011	Wire transfer of \$30,000 from C.K. in
16			Irvine, California, to SGK Account 2567 in Houston, Texas
17	TWO	10/26/2012	Wire transfer of \$350,000 from Ottogi in Los Angeles, California, to Prosperity Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas
18	THREE	10/29/2012	Wire transfer of \$255,000 from Prosperity
19			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas to Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente, California
20	FOUR	11/2/2012	Wire transfer of \$980,000 from Ottogi in
21			Los Angeles, California, to Prosperity Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas
22	FIVE	11/5/2012	Wire transfer of \$435,000 from Prosperity Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
23			Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente, California
24	SIX	11/14/2012	Wire transfer of \$210,000 from Prosperity Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
25			Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente, California
26	SEVEN	11/19/2012	Wire transfer of \$150,000 from Prosperity Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
27			Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente, California
11			

	11	4	
1	EIGHT	1/3/2013	Wire transfer of \$1,010,000 from Ottogi in
2			LOS Angeles, California to Prognerity
2		1 / 1 / 2 2 2 2	Trust Account 3161 in Houston Texas
3	NINE	1/4/2013	Wire transfer of \$150,000 from Prosperity
, ,			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
4			Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente, California
	TEN	1/11/2013	Wire transfer of door one s
5		1/11/2015	Wire transfer of \$200,000 from Prosperity Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
			Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente,
6			California
	ELEVEN	1/28/2013	Wire transfer of \$170,000 from Prosperity
7			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
8		* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	Guli Account 8639 in San Clemente.
0			California
9	TWELVE	2/12/2013	Wire transfer of \$200,000 from Prosperity
			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
10	THIRTEEN	2/12/2013	C.K. in Irvine, California
	11111/111111	2/12/2013	Wire transfer of \$150,000 from Prosperity
11			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
	·		Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente, California
12	FOURTEEN	5/29/2013	Wire transfer of \$406,000 from Ottogi in
10	. **		Los Angeles, California, to Prosperity
13			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas
14	FIFTEEN	5/29/2013	Wire transfer of \$100,000 from Ottogi in
			Los Angeles, California, to Prosperity
15	ATTION TO		Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas
. "	SIXTEEN	5/30/2013	Wire transfer of \$500,000 from Prosperity
16			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
			Gulf Account 8639 in San Clemente,
17	SEVENTEEN	2/5/2014	California
		2/3/2014	Wire transfer of \$300,000 from Ottogi in
18			Los Angeles, California, to Prosperity Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas
19	EIGHTEEN	2/7/2014	Wire transfer of disc cas s
エフ		1 4 / / 2014	Wire transfer of \$150,000 from Prosperity
20			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to Kang Account 6600 in San Clemente,
			California
21	NINETEEN	3/11/2014	Wire transfer of \$570,000 from Ottogi in
		1	LOS Angeles, California, to Prognerity
22			Trust Account 3161 in Houston Texas
	TWENTY	3/12/2014	Wire transfer of \$460.000 from Prognerity
23			Trust Account 3161 in Houston, Texas, to
24			Rang Account 6600 in San Clemente
24			California
25			

COUNTS TWENTY-ONE THROUGH TWENTY-FIVE

[18 U.S.C. § 1957]

- 5. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Indictment as though fully set forth herein.
- 6. On or about the following dates, in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant KANG, knowing that the funds involved represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, engaged in the following monetary transactions, affecting interstate commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, such property having been derived from a specified unlawful activity, namely, wire fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343:

14 | ///

15 ///

16 ///

1	COUNT	DARIE	
	 	DATE	TRANSACTION
2	TWENTY-ONE	11/27/2012	Withdrawal of \$15,350 from SGK Account
3	TWENTY-TWO	2/20/2013	2567 by check number 1711, payable to G.F. Withdrawal of \$12,900 from SGK Account
4	TWENTY-THREE	2/10/2014	2567 by check number 1722, payable to G F
			Withdrawal of \$11,800 from Kang Account 6600 by check number 4269, payable to E.M.
5	TWENTY-FOUR	3/13/2014	Withdrawal of \$10,800 from Kang Account
6	TWENTY-FIVE	3/14/2014	6600 by check number 4297, payable to E.M. Withdrawal of \$15,000 from Kang Account
7			6600 by check number 4305, payable to M Bar Restaurant
8			
9			
10			A TRUE BILL
11	*		
12			/s/
	1f		And the second s
			Foreperson
13			Foreperson
13 14	EILEEN M. DECK United States		Foreperson
	United States	Attorney	Foreperson
14		Attorney DDLETON ed States At	
14 15	United States LAWRENCE S. MI Assistant Unite	Attorney DDLETON ed States At	
14 15 16	United States LAWRENCE S. MI Assistant Unite	Attorney DDLETON ed States At	
14 15 16 17	United States LAWRENCE S. MI Assistant Unite Chief, Criminal SCOTT M. GARRIN	Attorney DDLETON ed States At l Division OGER	torney
14 15 16 17	United States LAWRENCE S. MI Assistant Unite Chief, Crimina	Attorney DDLETON ed States At l Division NGER ed States At	torney
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	United States LAWRENCE S. MINASSISTANT UNITE Chief, Criminal SCOTT M. GARRINASSISTANT UNITE Deputy Chief, C	Attorney DDLETON ed States At l Division NGER ed States At Criminal Div	torney
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	LAWRENCE S. MILASSISTANT UNITED CHIEF, Criminal SCOTT M. GARRINASSISTANT UNITED CHIEF, CRUTH C. PINKEL Assistant United	Attorney DDLETON ed States At l Division NGER ed States At Criminal Div	torney torney ision
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	United States LAWRENCE S. MINASSISTANT UNITE Chief, Criminal SCOTT M. GARRINASSISTANT UNITE Deputy Chief, C	Attorney DDLETON ed States At l Division NGER ed States At Criminal Div	torney torney ision

Acting Deputy Chief, General

Assistant United States Attorney

Crimes Section

JULIAN L. ANDRÉ

General Crimes Section

24

25

26

27

28