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**D. A. BROWN: MEDICAL DOCTOR CONVICTED OF INSURANCE FRAUD; SOUGHT TO CHEAT INSURANCE CARRIERS OF \$67,000 BY FILING FALSE CLAIMS SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT FOR PURPORTED NEURO DIAGNOSTIC TESTS AND INITIAL CONSULTATION EXAMS OF 24 AUTO ACCIDENT VICTIMS AT QUEENS CLINICS**

*Faces up to Seven Years in Prison and Loss of Medical License*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a medical doctor has been convicted of insurance fraud and related offenses for stealing \$23,000 from nine insurance companies by filing false claims seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$67,000 for medical tests and consultations purportedly provided to 24 automobile accident victims at three clinics in Jackson Heights, Forest Hills and Ozone Park.

According to the District Attorney, the defendant was one of eight physicians charged in a major investigation -- Operation Sideswipe -- announced in January 2004 of automobile insurance fraud by the District Attorney's Rackets and Organized Crime Bureau, the New York City Police Department's Auto Crime Division and the New York State Insurance Department's Insurance Fraud Bureau.

District Attorney Brown said, "Driven by financial greed, the defendant, a medical doctor, has been found guilty by a jury of stealing \$23,000 from insurance companies. The nine insurance companies cheated in his scheme received false claims for reimbursement of medical tests and consultations of 24 automobile accident victims that the defendant did not provide. No-fault insurance fraud costs the insurance industry about \$23 billion dollars nationwide each year and consumers ultimately pay the bill by way of ever increasing insurance premiums. The defendant will now be held accountable for his actions and faces loss of his license to practice medicine in the State of New York."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Vladimir Kirkorov, 55, of 21 Bennett Place on Staten Island, a physiatrist/physical medicine and rehabilitation doctor. Following a one-month trial, a jury of six men and six women deliberated for 12 hours over two days before convicting the defendant yesterday of seven-counts of Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, 17-counts of Insurance Fraud in the Fourth Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, seven-counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, 24-counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree and two-counts of Petit Larceny in front of Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert C. McGann who presided at trial and set a sentencing date of July 25, 2006. The defendant faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, between March 1, 2001 and March 16, 2005, at three medical clinics -- Lane Medical at 107-40 Queens Boulevard in Forest Hills; Primerica Medical at 97-13 101 Avenue in Ozone Park and Roosevelt Medical at 111-16 Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights, the defendant submitted fraudulent and exaggerated medical claims of over 24 separate bills to nine insurance companies requesting reimbursement ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for a nerve conduction velocity-needle electromyography test and \$114 to \$230 in initial consultation comprehensive medical examinations that he claimed to have performed at the various clinics on motor vehicle accident victims, although did not render, for the purpose of collecting insurance money under New York State's No-fault law.

The nine companies defrauded include American Transit Insurance, Allstate Insurance, Countywide Insurance, Claranden National, Triboro Coach, Lumberman's Mutual, One Beacon, AIG and State Farm Insurance.

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District Attorney Brown said his office had notified the New York State Department of Health's Office of Professional Medical Conduct about the allegations against the physician who now faces loss of his license as a result of yesterday's conviction on the criminal charges.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Ronald H. Georg and Elizabeth A. Curcio of the District Attorney's Detective Bureau under the supervision of Chief Lawrence J. Festa and Deputy Chief Al D. Velardi.

Assistant District Attorney Karina R. Hojraj of the District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief, Marc P. Resnick and Peri Alyse Kadanoff, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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