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**BROOKLYN PROCESSING COMPANY OWNER CHARGED**  
**WITH FRAUDING STATE OUT OF MORE THAN \$32,000 IN UNCLAIMED FUNDS**  
*Allegedly Impersonated Scores of Individuals To Steal From State Treasury*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli and State Police Acting Superintendent Preston L. Felton, announced today that the owner of a Brooklyn processing company has been charged with defrauding the State out of more than \$32,000 in unclaimed funds by posing as the rightful owners of the funds.

District Attorney Brown said, "According to the charges, the defendant took advantage of the State's claim process to steal tens of thousands of dollars in unclaimed funds held by the state by posing as those individuals who were rightfully owed money. The case will be prosecuted vigorously and ensure that those who are exploiting the system and ripping off the State are appropriately punished."

Comptroller DiNapoli said, "This individual had access to highly sensitive personal information of others and abused it for his own personal gain. Fortunately my staff uncovered his activities. The Comptroller's Office and Queens District Attorney Brown's Office were able to collaborate quickly, stop his wrongdoing and bring him to justice."

State Police Major Michael A. Kopy, Troop Commander in New York City, stated, "The State Police are committed to investigating individuals such as the defendant so that they are no longer able to utilize stolen identities to either wrongly claim monies not owed to them or to commit any other type of criminal act. This arrest should serve as notice to others who may attempt to engage in similar illegal activities."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Jamel Ali, 50, of 241 Kingsborough 2<sup>nd</sup> Walk in Brooklyn. Ali, who is a licensed process server and the C.E.O. of United Process Services of N.Y., Inc., of 593 Vanderbilt Avenue in Brooklyn, is being held pending arraignment today in Queens County Supreme Court on a 230-count indictment charging him with third- and fourth-degree grand larceny, first-degree falsifying business records, first-degree offering a false instrument for filing, fourth-degree money laundering, first-degree identity theft, second-degree criminal impersonation, third-degree unlawful possession of personal identification, first-degree scheme to defraud, fifth-degree conspiracy and petit larceny. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

Today's arrest is the result of a three-month investigation by the Queens District Attorney's Office, the New York State Police and the State Comptroller's Office, which began after an audit and an internal investigation of claims for abandoned property by the Comptroller's Office uncovered a pattern of fraud.

According to the indictment, between May 9, 2006, and February 26, 2007, the defendant stole more than \$32,000 by posing as the rightful owners of various abandoned properties that had been remitted to the State Comptroller's Office by financial and other business institutions and making false claims to the dormant funds. In carrying out the scheme, the defendant allegedly used his position as a process server to access certain confidential information – such as social security numbers – in order to access the system.

District Attorney Brown noted that the investigation is continuing and charges involving additional alleged conspirators are pending.

The State Comptroller's Office is responsible for holding unclaimed funds from banks,

insurance companies, utilities and other businesses and delivering them to the rightful owners. Last year, the office returned about \$169.1 million in unclaimed funds for more than 264,000 accounts. There is no fee to reclaim funds. The public can check for unclaimed funds at 1-800-221-9311 or by visiting the Comptroller's website at [www.osc.state.ny.us](http://www.osc.state.ny.us).

(more)

The investigation was conducted by the State Comptroller's Office, the Queens County District Attorney's Detective Bureau – specifically, Investigator Jerome D. Pugh under the supervision of Sergeant John W. Kenna, Lieutenant Albert D. Velardi and Chief Lawrence J. Festa – and the New York State Police – specifically, Investigators Ralph Rodriguez, and David Douglas under the supervision of Senior Investigator Steven Udice and Major Michael Kopy. Jason J. Bush, an analyst intern assigned to the District Attorney's Investigations Division, also assisted in the investigation.

Peter A. Crusco, Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations, is prosecuting the case. Jason J. Bush, Investigations Division analyst-intern assisted in the investigation.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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