

Atty Admits To Scamming Foreign Nation Using Sham Firm

By **Martin Bricketto**

Law360, New York (April 28, 2015, 7:21 PM ET) -- A New York-licensed attorney pled guilty in New Jersey federal court on Tuesday to swindling more than \$3.5 million from a foreign nation through a sham law and accounting firm that he secretly controlled.

A one-time legal advisor for the country, Bobby Boye of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey copped to conspiracy to commit wire fraud before U.S. District Judge Freda L. Wolfson in Trenton, according to the office of U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey Paul Fishman. Boye's sentencing is scheduled for August 13.

The plea comes a little more than 10 months after **Boye was arrested** at Newark International Airport over the scheme, in which he capitalized on his role with the country to secure a multimillion-dollar contract for legal and tax accounting advice for the shell company that he created.

Boye was an international petroleum legal advisor for the National Directorate of Petroleum Revenue within the victimized country's Ministry of Finance, according to court documents.

While court documents only refer to the country as "Country A," request for bids available on the website of Timor-Leste's Ministry of Finance list a Bobby Boye as the contact. Timor-Leste is located in Southeast Asia and has a population of about 1.2 million. It became an independent nation in 2002.

Boye began working for the country at issue in July 2010, according to an information in the case, and in February 2012 was one of three members on a committee responsible for evaluating bids for the government's lucrative legal services contract.

Boye steered the contract to Opus & Best Law Services LLC, purportedly a Manhattan-based law and accounting firm, by submitting a bid for the contract as Opus & Best using documents that claimed the firm was founded in 1985, when it was actually incorporated in March 2012, and provided a list of employees working for the firm.

Boye was the firm's sole employee, according to the information, which also said the bid falsely represented that there was no conflict of interest.

Unaware of the conflict, the country awarded Opus & Best the contract in June 2012, and over the subsequent six months, the country wired more than \$3.5 million to Opus & Best's New York bank account, which was under Boye's control, authorities said.

The government has said Boye used the money to purchase four properties in New Jersey, three luxury vehicles, including a 2011 Rolls Royce for \$215,000, and designer watches.

An attorney for Boye declined comment.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Shirley U. Emehelu and Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Ward.

Boye is represented by Assistant Federal Public Defender K. Anthony Thomas.

The case is U.S. v. Boye, case number 3:15-cr-00196, in the U.S. District Court District of New Jersey.

— Editing by Ben Guilfooy.

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