



AFSA - IRS

NEWSLETTER



*A Publication of the Association of Former
Special Agents of the IRS*

Vol. XXXIV No. 2

Summer, 2023

**2023 AFSA Convention
The Guy Harvey Resort
St. Augustine Beach, Florida
October 8-11, 2023**



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Editor's Note

This edition of the newsletter is running late for a number of reasons, but partially due to not knowing of Dan Pieschal's recent hospitalization. Fortunately Dan has spoken with his trusty assistant, George Meyer, who has recently informed us that Dan is out of the hospital and recovering at home. George has advised that in a recent conversation, Dan indicated his concern for the convention planning and advised him that we have it under control. I'm sure you will miss Dan's description of the plans that they have made, but never fear, George has provided the description of the convention activities which will follow, albeit in a few less words. It still looks to me like a great time will be had by all!

Additionally, I've just received the report from the Scholarship Committee with the names of the recipients of this year's scholarships. As usual Mark and his committee have done great work in reviewing the applications and their selections are included here also. Hope to see everyone in St. Augustine in October. Should be great weather for all of the activities.

SUMMARY OF AFSA-IRS CONVENTION 2023 SCHEDULE

NOTE! FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES REFER TO THE SPRING NEWSLETTER.

10/6/23 FRIDAY

Early arrival of hosts and helpers to start set up of hospitality room and stuff gift bags. Dinner is on your own at the hotel restaurant Santiago's or any number of other restaurants a short drive North on A1A.

10/7/23 SATURDAY

Early arrivals have a day on-their-own. Each attendee will receive a 5 page list of on-your-own activities. Hosts and helpers will shop for hospitality room supplies and finish setting up the hospitality room and stuffing the gift bags.

6:30 P.M.: Group sunset dinner at the appropriately named Sunset Grille, a short drive up A1A. Order off the menu and receive separate checks.

10/8/23 SUNDAY

1:00-5:00 P.M.: Official registration will be in the hotel lobby. Pick up your ID badge and gift bag. Check in for the hotel is 4:00 but we have the hospitality room available at 1:00 P.M. for early arrivals to meet and visit until their room is ready. Each gift bag will contain a map of downtown St. Augustine with the 22 Old Town Trolley stops and historic sites listed. It will also include a list of on your own activities as well as numerous attraction brochures.

NOTE! The World Golf Hall of Fame that was listed in the Spring newsletter will not be open as it will close on September 30th to move to Pinehurst, N.C.

Hospitality room will close at 6:45P.M. to give people time to get to the President's Meet and Greet Buffet.

7:00-9:00 P.M.: President's Meet and Greet Banquet. Cash Bar.

9:00-11:00 P.M.: Hospitality room open. Note! The hospitality room opens to a patio that borders the pool but is separated by a fence. We will book all 6 rooms that are within the fenced area so only AFSA attendees will have access to that patio. The patio will close at 9:00 P.M. as the hotel has a noise curfew at 9:00 P.M.

10/9/23 MONDAY

9:30 A.M.: Old Town Trolley Tour of historic downtown St. Augustine begins with two 30 passenger buses leaving the hotel for the Old Town Trolley headquarters where we will transfer to a 76 passenger tram for a one hour guided tour, for our group only, of downtown St. Augustine with a narrated description of the sites along the 22 on and off stops the trolley makes all day long. Your ticket entitles you to get on and off the 22 trolley stops all day long. At the end of the one hour tour the trolley will go to stop 14 where everyone will depart. At that time you can decide if you want to catch another trolley to stop at some other attraction or take a walk down historic St. George Street (a pedestrian only mall) to see the many historic sites or have lunch at one of the restaurants. This is also where you can catch the Beach Bus back to the hotel (included with your daily tour ticket) that leaves 35 minutes after the hour and takes about 30 minutes to get back to the hotel. Last Beach bus leaves at 4:35 P.M.

St. Augustine is a walk around town with most the sites within one mile. If you want lunch, locals highly recommend the Columbia Restaurant (2 blocks from Stop 14) and their famous 1905 salad tossed at your table. Combine it with a half of a Cuban sandwich or many other choices on the menu. Their Sangria is very popular. If on another day you drive in to town and want to have lunch at the Columbia, they have their own parking lot behind the restaurant on Spanish Street (one way) with free 2 hour parking for people eating at the restaurant.

4:30-6:30 P.M.: Board meeting at the Guy Harvey.

5:00-7:00 P.M.: Hospitality Room Open.

9:00-11:00 P.M.: Hospitality Room Open.

10/10/23 TUESDAY

This is an on-your-own activity day. You can choose from a list of activities provided in your gift bag or do your own thing. Remember the hotel is on the Ocean so you can always walk on the Ocean shore and look for sharks teeth and shells. If you want to do more touring of historic St. Augustine downtown you can

either drive to town and park in the Visitor's Center Parking Garage (\$15) or buy a ticket for the Old Town Trolley at the hotel desk and catch the Beach Bus that leaves every hour at 8 minutes after the hour.

5:00-7:00 P.M.: Hospitality Room Open.

9:00-11:00 P.M.: Hospitality Room Open

10/11/23 WEDNESDAY

9:00 A.M.: (Note time change from 8:30 A.M.). Opening of annual meeting. The Presentation of colors by St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard. After The Pledge of Allegiance and welcoming comments, a short break and then the annual update from CI headquarters. After the update there will be a 15 minute break before the start of the annual meeting and election of officers.

Afternoon: On-your-own activities.

5:00-7:00 P.M.: Hospitality Room Open.

7:00-9:00 P.M.: Annual Banquet with Cash Bar.

9:00-11:00 P.M.: Hospitality Room Open.

10/11/23 Thursday

Check out by 11:00 A.M.: If you extended your stay enjoy on-your-own activities.

SAFE TRAVELS!

**There are special people in our lives who never leave us,
even after they are gone.**

In Memoriam

Stephen V. Shekter

San Rafael, CA

Arthur Henry Daniels

Georgetown, TX

Catherine Pledger

Chicago, IL

Richard E. Zagotta

Wheaton, IL

Arthur Alvin "Al" Selby

Charlotte, NC

2023 AFSA-IRS ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION
Guy Harvey Resort – October 8-11, 2023
 860 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

To make your hotel reservation:

Call 904-471-2555

**Identify as being with the AFSA Convention
 Registration Deadline is September 4, 2023**

AFSA Member:	First:		Last:	
Guest:	First:		Last:	
(This will be the name that will be on your convention name badge.)				
Address:				Phone:
City:	ST:	ZIP:	Cell:	
E-Mail:	Arrival date:		Departure date:	
Registration		Fees (per person)		#
AFSA Member Registration Fee		\$225		\$
Guest Registration Fee		\$225		\$
Hospitality Room Non-Alcoholic Drink Preference Discount		-\$10		\$
Registration fees include: Sunday Evening President's Meet & Greet; Opening Ceremony; Wednesday Evening Banquet Dinner; all Hospitality Room Sessions.				
#	Attending Sun. Evening President's Meet & Greet (Included in Registration Fee)		#	Attending Wednesday Evening Banquet (Included in Registration Fee)
#	Attending Wed. AM Business Mtg.		#	Attending Saturday (Oct. 7) Night Sunset Dinner at Sunset Grill (Pay at restaurant—separate checks will be issued.)
Please indicate the activities you wish to participate in: (See convention schedule for activity details)				Fees (per person)
Mon. Oct. 9 – Old Town Trolley Tour-St. Augustine				\$60
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
Make your check payable to AFSA				Total Amount Paid: \$

E-mail registration form to gdupczak@att.net and mail your check to:

Gerard Dupczak
 1428 Charlevoix Way
 Schererville, IN 46375

For general CONVENTION INFO, please visit www.afsa-irs.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

Executive Director Corner – Summer, 2023



Greetings and salutations! Helotes, TX the Texas gateway to the hill country – beautiful day, 102 degrees.

In 1881, Arnold Gugger, a Swiss-American, founded downtown Helotes. He saw the potential of the area then known as “Helotes Crossing.” Throughout the farming seasons and during cattle drives, travelers stopped to camp at the intersection of Bandera Road and Helotes Creek.

Hope your day is a lot cooler than here, where we are still under a heat advisory.

80 Days to the AFSA-IRS Convention October 8 – 11, 2023

Dan Pieschel, George Meyer and the Convention Planning team have been working hard. They are putting together an amazing package of activities, tours, and the convention. My flight is booked I am looking forward to time on the beach. But most of all I love the camaraderie, with old friends and meeting new friends. {If you are planning on renting a car for the Convention, it is recommended you reserve it early.}

Every year the Scholarship Committee had a very tough task. The pool of applicants continues to be outstanding. Thank you to all of you who donate to the scholarship fund to the AFSA-IRS Memorial Scholarship fund and to William Schroeder, President of Madison Associates, Inc. for his very generous donation to the James F. Howe, Sr and Frank Fotinatos Scholarship Fund.

See you in Saint Augustine, FL!

Have a great day.

Adieu

~ Mary~

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Fellow AFSA Members:

I hope the past few months have found you well and reasonably happy. The wildfires in Canada have really messed with the weather in many parts of the country. This may be one bizarre period, weather-wise. Please stay healthy if you affected by it.

Have you ever thought: “If I knew I would live this long I would have taken better care of myself?”

I am sure that lament has been uttered by many, but I remember hearing it from Mickey Mantle. Despite being a gifted athlete, his lifestyle was not the best and he needed a liver transplant later in his life, long after he retired from baseball.



Part of taking care of ourselves includes surrounding ourselves with good friends. This is something that I enjoy about the AFSA—I have met some outstanding people since I joined and am very happy to have good friends throughout the country.

I was fortunate to be able to have the career that I had with IRS-CI. It allowed me to develop skills that I was able to utilize after I retired from the IRS. But the friendships that I have made by being part of the AFSA is the best part.

My wife Cindy and I look forward to our yearly convention trips so we can again meet up with our friends. It brings with it that good feeling that we are taking better care of ourselves. It is kind of a favorable paradox—being with good friends can help you have a longer life, and having a longer life means you have more time for good friends.

So—the 2023 convention is on the horizon. I am eagerly anticipating seeing many of you in Florida and at other conventions in the future!

Gerard Dupczak.
President, AFSA

AFSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

College Scholarships Announced

AFSA-IRS administers the **AFSA-IRS Memorial Scholarship** in honor of founding members Frank L. Smith and Tom Clancy and the **James F. Howe, Sr. & Frank Fotinatos Scholarship**. The differences are as follows:

1. The **AFSA-IRS Memorial Scholarship** awards a \$2000.00 scholarship and is open to high school seniors and full-time college students with a GPA of 3.00 or better.
2. The **James F. Howe, Sr. & Frank Fotinatos Scholarship** awards a \$3000.00 scholarship and is open also to high school seniors and full-time students with a GPA of 2.5 or above. This scholarship is open to those students who are pursuing a career in law enforcement or law enforcement related careers.

Scholarship Donors not included in the last Newsletter **Donations made between 6/28/2022-12/31/2022**

Teri Alexander
Gilbert D. L. Elverson
Gary M. Gilday
Larry Harper
Larry R. Hyatt
Shawn Kaderabek
Robert J. Kennealy
Joe Lesnock

Dennis E. Crawford
John P. Funyak
Marsha L. Griffith
John R. Harrison
Oscar Inglesias
Mark P. Kaylor
Glenn J. Kulas
Dennis L. Lubbe

Richard J. Durant
Michael A. Gallo
Phil Hall
Vonnie Hinesley
Richard B. Johnson
Edward F. Kalata
Mark Lessler
James T. Madden

John T. McGuire
Wayne A. McEwan
Dale C. Mitchum
Wallace Musoff
Ron Nimmer
Michael O'Shea

Mary Frances Martin
James T. McGuire
Paul Miyahara
Keith Nelson
William Frugoli
Dan Pieschel

Charles O. Matthys
Anne Marie Minogue
Stephen J. Moore
James P. Nielsen
Paul Lillis
Diane Tomasello

In Memory of Matias Ruiz

Scholarship Donors since the last Newsletter
Donations made between 1/1/2023-6/13/2023

Albert J. Allison
Michael James Anderson
Jerry L. Bandy
Ronald M. Baumann
Victor Bell, Jr.
Robert W. Bernat
Tedd A. Boomershine
Sherry M. Brown
G. Del Butler
Jerry Carrier
Anthony A. Cesare
Robert M. Colasacco
Ronald V. Corey
Cleve Daniels, Jr.
Kent V. Domogalla
Charles J. Durancik
Gilbert D. L. Elberson
Edward L. Federico, Jr.
Elizabeth Fleaher (Rogers)
Robert Gorini
Ken Harper
Michael J. Harris
Cheryl Hessler
Dr. James W. Houlihan
John H. Imhoff
Les Jenson
Mark P. Kayler
Robert J. Kennealy
Mark Kroczyński
Alan Leksander
David M. Lieser
Alan Lipkin
Dennis L. Lubbe
Edmond J. Martin
Charles O. Matthys
Michael J. McKay
Floyd S. Mitchell

Richard D. Andersen
Nancy Anderson
Adrian J. Barnett
David F. Beitzel
Roy E. Bennett
George F. Blair
Frederick E. Boyd, Jr.
Lloyd Bruce
Tamara D. Cantu
William J. Casler
Allen B. Chase
Tim Connelly
Ryan T. Corrigan
David Diffenbach
John Drew
Richard J. Durant
Francine L. Evans
Cynthia Winchester Fish
Gail Marie Frugoli
Phil Hall
Lowell L. Harris
Raymond T. Heffernan
Robert Hessler
Carl Steve Howard
Thaddeus A. Jalkiewicz
Richard B. Johnson
Edward F. Kalata
Michael S. Kochmanski
Michael Kulpa
Victor William Lessoff
Herbert A. Linder
Charles F. Little
Joseph R. Lubbe
Alfonso Martinez
James W. May, Jr.
James D. Meyers
Dale C. Mitchum

John Anderson
Patricia C. Bakke
Phillip A. Barnett
W. Ronald Bell
Robert D. Beranger
Hollis K. Bliss
Joan M. Brazzale
William F. Bruton
Vincent Cantu
Terry Catalina
David P. Clark
David J. Cook
Dennis E. Crawford
James Digiulio
Susan Dukes
Lawrence R. (Larry) Egan
Michael Faiella
A. Jack Fishman
Robert W. Galbraith
Scott Hammond
Marvin L. Harris
Ernesto D. Hernandez
Vonnie Hinesley
Russell E. Huggins
John W. Jennings, Jr.
Shawn Kaderabek
Thomas J. Kelly
Maura F. Krajewski
John J. Kuper, Jr.
Kellie C. Lewis
Ronald N. Line
Michael Lopresto
James T. Madden
Linda Masessa
Martin L. McCormack, Jr.
Anne Marie Minogue
Paul Miyahara

Kathryn Montemorra
Inar "Smitty" Morics
Keith Nelson
Thomas J. O'Halloran
Vincent Oliveto
William V. Parrish
Calvin E Puryear
Donald R. Rehmer
Kent M. Rogers
Lilia E. Ruiz
Joseph Salerno
Robert M. Schmus
Arthur A. Selby, Jr.
Darrell G. Smith
M. Robert Snead
Kevin Michael Sullivan
Gregory R. Szczeszek
Donald Temple
Catherine Tucker
Russell K. Ward
Vincent J. Weltz
Kenneth J. Wissel
John R. Wright, Jr.

Stephen J. Moore
Woodland R. Morris
James P. Nielsen
Leonard (Len) C. Odom
Gerald A. Ontko
M. A. (Butch) Phillips
Timothy Quinn
Al Ristuccia
Joseph R. Rosetti
Mary L. Ruiz
Jeff S. Sandy
Michael Schneider
Roma Sexson
Glenn P. Smith
David C. Solar
Paul A. Sullivan
Peter C. Tagni
Peggy Thomas
Stephen Wade Walker
Floyd Weaver
James J. White
Richard A. Woolf
Stephen P. Young

John M. Morgan
Timothy H. Myers
Michael J. O'Brien
Sheila Ann Olander
Karl R. Oroz
Joseph J. Ponzio
George Regan
James Robnett
James Whitfield Ruark
Richard Ruka
Wayne W. Santoro
Robert L. Schweitzer
Arnold Sitzmann
James E. Smith
Victor S. Stern
Fred A. Swick
Charles F. (Chuck) Taylor
Bruce R. Traina
Carl William Walters
Brian T. Wellesley
Lee Williams
Richard B. Worker

Scholarships Awarded

The following people were awarded scholarships for 2023 in the AFSA Memorial Scholarship category:

Caroline Lubbe- sponsor Dennis Lubbe
Anne Ollendick - Sponsor Kevin Ollendick
Johnathan Vogt - James Houlihan
Justin Ronald Line - sponsor Ronald Norman Line
Brianna Giangrasso - sponsor Karen Flanagan
MacKenszie Connelly - sponsor Timothy Connelly

In the category of the Howe - Fotinatos Scholarship:

Isabella Jankowski - sponsor Thomas Jankowski

Congratulations to all the awardees and their sponsors. We had 23 individuals apply this year. Remember, applicants are allowed two scholarships per lifetime. If an applicant was not awarded a scholarship this year, there is nothing to preclude eligible candidates from reapplying next year.

A total of \$15,000 was awarded this year thanks to the generous donations of our members and the sponsor of the Howe-Fotinatos scholarship.

Mark Kroczyński, Scholarship Committee

Donations can be made any time online.



AFSA-IRS is delighted to have you join.

Troy Niro	Kingston	Rhode Island
Laura L. Shimkus	Westmont	Illinois
Aaron Gogley	Oviedo	Florida
Ronald Bryan	Miami	Florida
Jeff Ward	Verdi	Nevada
Tim Clarke	San Antonio	Texas
Mike Dragan	Northfield	
Frank Coney	Fairview	North Carolina

Oklahoma City Woman Convicted of Federal Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, and Financial Crimes in Eastern District of Texas

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Share

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Texas

SHERMAN, Texas – An Oklahoma City, OK woman has been convicted of various federal crimes related to an international drug trafficking conspiracy in the Eastern District of Texas, announced U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston today.

Debra Lynn Mercer-Erwin, 60, was found guilty by a jury following a two-week trial before U.S. District Judge Amos Mazzant. Mercer-Erwin was convicted of money laundering; wire fraud; conspiracy to manufacture and distribute cocaine; and conspiracy to manufacture and distribute cocaine knowing it would be imported into the United States.

“In the aircraft world, planes registered in the United States and displaying a ‘N’ tail-number, are coveted as being properly vetted and trusted to legally operate around the world. Mercer-Erwin found ways to exploit the registration process in order to profit from illegally obtained money being paid for her services,” said U. S. Attorney Featherston. “Mercer-Erwin became a drug dealer when she became aware of planes she had registered were being used to transport large quantities of cocaine. Mercer-Erwin knew that many of her clients were in the illegal drug business and she hid their identities and the sources of their money in order to reap a large profit. She became a money launderer when she created fake sales of planes that were not

actually for sale in order to hide and move drug money. Transnational criminal organizations require assistance to operate in the U.S. and Mercer-Erwin facilitated the drug dealing by exploiting the plane registration process.”

“This investigation required cooperation between our international partners, investigating agents and our prosecutors,” added U.S. Attorney Featherston. “They did an amazing job putting the case together, and they are to be commended for their work.”

“This guilty verdict stems from the collaborative efforts of our trusted international, federal, state and local law enforcement partners,” said Lester R. Hayes Jr., Special Agent in Charge HSI Dallas. “Disrupting the illegal activities of transnational criminal organizations is one of HSI’s highest priorities and is enhanced by our partnerships at all levels. After listening to testimony of high-ranking leaders of the Columbian and Nicaraguan governments, I am convinced this investigation has significantly decreased the flow of narcotics smuggled into the U.S.”

“This investigation and successful prosecution serves as an example of how federal, state, and international law enforcement agencies work together to take down those involved in large scale money laundering in support of international drug trafficking organizations,” said Special Agent in Charge Trey McClish of the Dallas Field Office of the Department of Commerce’s Office of Export Enforcement (OEE). “OEE and our law enforcement partners will continue to identify, investigate, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations who pose a threat to our national security.”

According to information presented in court, between 2010 and 2020, Mercer-Erwin conspired with others to enable the distribution of cocaine in the United States by purchasing and illegally registering aircraft under foreign corporations and other individuals for export to other countries. Non-US citizens are allowed to register an aircraft with the FAA if the aircraft is placed in a trust that is managed by a U.S. trustee. Mercer-Erwin was the owner of Wright Brothers Aircraft Title (WBAT) and Aircraft Guaranty Corporation (AGC). WBAT often served as an escrow agent for transactions involving AGC and was the designated party responsible for FAA filings related to AGC aircraft. AGC, a corporation at that time operating out of Onalaska, Texas, an east Texas town in the Eastern District of Texas, without an airport. AGC acted as trustee to over 1,000 aircrafts with foreign owners. This allowed the foreign nationals to receive an “N” tail number for their aircrafts. The “N” tail number is valuable because foreign countries are less likely to inspect a U.S.-registered aircraft for airworthiness or force down an American aircraft.

According to prosecutors, several of the illegally registered and exported aircraft were used by transnational criminal organizations in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico to smuggle large quantities of cocaine destined for the United States. The illicit proceeds from the subsequent drug sales were then transported as bulk cash from the United States to Mexico and used to buy more aircraft and cocaine. Aircraft purchases were typically completed by foreign nationals working for transnational criminal organizations who came to the United States with drug proceeds and purchased aircraft valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mercer-Erwin exploited her position as trustee to circumvent U.S. laws by disguising the true identity of the foreign owners, failing to conduct due diligence as to the identity of the foreign owners, providing false aircraft locations, and falsifying and forging documents. Trial testimony revealed the investigation was initiated after aircraft filing irregularities were discovered in tandem with numerous AGC aircraft found carrying substantial amounts of cocaine. The testimony further revealed additional aircraft in AGC’s trust were not seized but found by foreign officials destroyed or abandoned near clandestine landing strips in

several South American countries. Some of these wrecked or abandoned aircraft still contained multi-ton kilos of cocaine onboard, and few, if any, of the seized or destroyed aircraft were in the location they were reported to be located. When authorities confronted Mercer-Erwin as the representative of AGC, she refused to comply and each time law enforcement would seize an AGC registered aircraft laden with drugs, Mercer-Erwin attempted to distance herself from the narcotic's trafficking by transferring ownership of the aircraft using fictitious information to conceal the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the aircraft.

Additionally, Mercer-Erwin and co-defendants participated in a series of bogus aircraft sales transactions in order to conceal the movement of illegally obtained funds. The co-defendants would provide buyers and investors with fabricated documents and supply false representations regarding the bogus sale of an unsellable aircraft. The aircraft was unsellable because, unbeknownst to the buyers, the true owners of the aircraft had no knowledge or intention of selling the aircraft. Other bogus sales presented to buyers consisted of aircraft that was owned by a commercial airline and previously decommissioned and inoperable. None of the aircraft presented to the buyers were for sale.

The defendants would convince the buyer to place a deposit into an escrow account with WBAT, the title company owned by Mercer-Erwin, pending the completion of the sale. Once the money was placed in WBAT's escrow account, the buyers were responsible for the interest accrued, and an escrow fee would be charged. In a typical sale, the deposit would remain in the escrow account. However, Mercer-Erwin would transfer the money from the escrow account to bank accounts controlled by the co-conspirators.

Since the aircraft was not truly for sale, the purchase of the aircraft would inevitably fall through, and the deposit would have to be returned. The co-conspirators would repeat the process by luring another buyer for the purchase of another unsellable aircraft. Each transaction would pay for the previous one, and Mercer-Erwin would receive an escrow fee ranging from \$25,000 to \$150,000 for her participation in the scheme.

Mercer-Erwin was the only defendant to proceed to trial. Co-defendants Kayleigh Moffett and Carlos Rocha Villaurrutia pleaded guilty on April 10, 2023. Moffett pleaded guilty to wire fraud and conspiracy to commit export violations, and Villaurrutia pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute cocaine knowing it would be unlawfully imported into the United States; conspiracy to commit money laundering; and conspiracy to commit export violations. Four other defendants have active arrest warrants but are not in custody and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Mercer-Erwin was indicted by a federal grand jury in February 2021. She faces up to life in federal prison. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This is an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) case and is being investigated by Homeland Security Investigations (Dallas, Brownsville, Laredo, Guatemala, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, and Transnational Criminal Investigative Units); Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (Dallas and Houston offices); Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General (DOT-OIG); Office of Export Enforcement; Polk County Constable Precinct 1; Southeast Texas Export Investigations Group; Internal Revenue Service; Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); Estado Mayor De La Defensa Nacional Guatemala; Fuerza Aerea Guatemalteca; and Fuerza Aerea Colombiana. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level drug traffickers, money launderers, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations that threaten the United States by using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency

approach that leverages the strengths of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies against criminal networks.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ernest Gonzalez, Heather Rattan, and Lesley Brooks.

Meet Your New Commissioner



Danny Werfel serves as the 50th Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. As Commissioner, he presides over the nation's tax system, which collects approximately \$4.1 trillion in tax revenue each year representing about 96% of the total gross receipts of the United States. Commissioner Werfel oversees an agency of about 85,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$12 billion.

Commissioner Werfel has an extensive range of experience inside and outside of government. Prior to becoming Commissioner, he was the global leader of Boston Consulting Group's (BCG) Public Sector practice. Previously, he was the leader of BCG's Public Sector practice in North America. In these roles, he worked with government agencies worldwide on finances, service delivery, transformation plans and risk-assessment initiatives.

Before joining BCG in 2014, Commissioner Werfel served in the federal government for more than 15 years, including seven months as Acting Commissioner of the IRS from May to December 2013. Prior to his appointment as Acting Commissioner, he was Controller of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where he led efforts across the federal government to improve program integrity, including all areas of financial management, financial reporting, accounting standards, improper payments and financial systems, among others. During his tenure as Controller, Commissioner Werfel assumed the responsibility of Deputy Director of Management, where he oversaw governmentwide efforts to reform and improve personnel, IT, acquisition and performance management. While at OMB, he also served as Deputy Controller, Chief of the Financial Integrity and Analysis Branch, Budget Examiner in the Education Branch, and Policy Analyst in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. During his time at OMB, Commissioner Werfel served under nine different directors in both Republican and Democratic administrations. He has also served as a Trial Attorney in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Commissioner Werfel has received both national and local awards from the Association of Government Accountants for his contributions to Federal financial management. He received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service in 2008. He also served as a member of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board from 2006 to 2009 and the Defense Business Board from 2014 to 2016.

Commissioner Werfel holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Duke University, a Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University.

AFSA-IRS Officers and Appointed Officials

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Appointed</u>	
Gerald Dupczak (IN)	President	Mary Ruiz	Executive Director
Iris Bohannon (AR)	VP/President Elect	Bob Armentrout	Parliamentarian
Beth Putmam (MD)	2 nd Vice President	A. Jack Fishman	Attorney
Gail Donaldson (DE)	Secretary	Ross Brown	Newsletter Editor
George Meyer (FL)	Treasurer	Chuck Taylor	Tech Advisor
Chuck Taylor (WI)	Past President	Vacant	Historian
		Mark Kroczyński	Scholarship Chair

AFSA Regional Directors and Regional Representatives

Region	Regional Director	Regional Representatives	
1	David Nicholson (MA)	John Fahey Matthew Cola Robert Galbraith Charles Franssen	Providence, RI Babylon, NY E. Amherst, NY Huntington, NY
2	Robert Schmus Voorhees, NJ	Alan Fogel John Gagliardo Robert McDugall	Manalapan, NJ Lincoln Park, NJ Blue Bell, PA
3	Mary Fran Martin (MD)	Kathy Montemora	(MD)
4	Elizabeth Fleaher (OH)	Ted Boomershine David W. Jansen	Kettering, OH Kettering, OH
5	Cynthia Fish (NC)		
6	Michael Stephens (FL)	Angelo Troncoso Dave Beitzel Orlan Smith Robert McLaughlin Jeff Karsh Larry Sands	Clearwater, FL Naples, FL Orlando, FL Ponce Inlet, FL Plantation, FL Keystone Heights, FL
7	Robert Kuschel (IL)	Inar “Smitty” Morics Ronald Cipolla Tom O’Halloran	Des Moines, IA Eagan, MN St. Louis, MO
8	Calvin Puryear (TX)	Ed Martin Robert Schweitzer Dennis Carey Mike Mayott	Austin, TX Sun City West, AZ Glenwood Springs, CO Billings, MT
9	Richard Malone (CA)	Alex Seddio Reginald Norberg	San Francisco, CA Seattle, WA



AFSA – IRS Membership Application

We STRONGLY encourage members to apply on line: www.afsa-irs.org, however you may mail completed application with \$50 check payable to AFSA for first year dues to:

AFSA-IRS
P.O. Box 1187
Helotes, TX 78023

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: () _____

Home Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

IRS-CI Special Agent Service Dates: From: _____; To: _____ Are you a current Special Agent? _____

Retirement Date: _____; Spouse's Name: _____

Current or Last Post of Duty: _____ Current or last Supervisor & Ph #: _____

Current Employment (type of work): _____

Business Name: _____

Address: City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: () _____ FAX: () _____

Business Email address: _____ Cell Phone () _____

As an AFSA member, I am interested in:

Doing investigative work ___ Yes ___ No **Being a member of an AFSA committee** ___ Yes ___ No

Serving AFSA in other positions ___ Yes ___ No Being an AFSA Representative ___ Yes ___ No
(Representatives assist Regional Directors)

Place a check mark in the blank for the items that apply to your skills, training, accreditation, or interest:

- A. Attorney _____
- B. Certified Public Accountant _____
- C. Certified Fraud Examiner _____
- D. Enrolled Agent _____
- E. Foreign languages _____
Specify: _____
Language(s) _____
- F. Instructor training experience _____
- G. Foreign: _____
Teaching experience _____
Consulting assignments: _____
- H. Computer forensics _____
- I. Investigative equipment training experience _____
- J. Licensed or certified private investigator _____
- K. Management training experience _____
- L. Other skills or investigative interest: _____
Specify _____

AFSA receives requests from various sources for members who may be interested in performing different types of work. If you desire to have this type of information available for AFSA to assist in matching your skills, expertise and abilities to a particular request, please complete this part of the membership form.

Membership is open to all retired, former and current IRS special agents with at least five years IRS special agent service. Current special agents are admitted as non-voting associate members. I am applying (or submitting changes) for membership in the Association of Former Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service. I am either a retired special agent, a former special agent, or a current special agent. I have neither been convicted of a felony nor left the IRS under any adverse circumstances.

Signed: _____ Date _____

AFSA REGIONS AND AREAS OF COVERAGE

Region	Area of Coverage
1	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont
2	New Jersey and New Jersey
3	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, U.S. Territories and International
4	Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia
5	Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina and South Carolina,
6	Florida
7	Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
8	Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming
9	Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS
OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (AFSA)
P.O. Box 1187
Helotes, TX 78023**

Help recruit new members for AFSA