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**For Immediate Release**

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## **DA Charges San Diego Neuropsychologist for \$2 Million in Fraudulent Billing**

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced today that neuropsychologist Michael Howard Kabat, 50, owner of Neuropsychology Consult Services, has been charged with 12 felony counts of health insurance fraud involving Blue Shield of California, Scripps Health Plan Services and The Medicare Trust Fund based on Kabat's fraudulent billing to those insurance companies in excess of \$2.2 million.

Kabat's psychological assistants routinely performed lengthy neuropsychological examinations, yet Kabat billed under a code indicating that he personally conducted the examinations. This billing code reimbursed services at a higher rate of pay and provided reimbursement for additional services related to the examinations. In total, Kabat received \$551,000 from three insurance companies under his fraudulent billing schemes spanning from late 2012 to early 2016.

Additionally, Kabat is charged with two counts of grand theft of labor since he did not pay his psychological assistants their hourly rate for services provided to Kabat, as required under California law. Kabat further categorized his psychological assistants as independent contractors rather than employees, resulting in four tax evasion related charges. Kabat also filed documents with the California Board of Psychology, which he signed under penalty of perjury, containing false information, which are the basis of seven perjury charges against him.

Finally, Kabat and his biller, Leslie Hendrix, also known as Leslie Lowe, 33, are each charged with three counts of health insurance fraud and additional felony counts for creating false documents in support of a claim for health insurance benefits when they added billing hours for services not rendered.

The investigation into Kabat's billing was conducted over a two-year period, and involved the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, U.S. Office of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Consumer Affairs, the California Board of Psychology and the California Department of Insurance.

Kabat and Hendrix were arraigned today in San Diego Superior Court.

**This investigation is ongoing. Additional witnesses and victims are encouraged to contact District Attorney Investigator Stan Schwarz at 619-531-3651.**

Insurance fraud in the U.S. costs consumers an estimated \$80 to \$90 billion per year. In California, insurance fraud is a \$15 billion a year problem. It's the second-largest economic crime in America, exceeded only by tax evasion. The District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Division is dedicated to preventing all forms of insurance fraud through proactive prosecution. This team handles investigations related to workers' compensation fraud, disability healthcare insurance fraud, auto insurance fraud and life insurance and annuity product financial abuse.

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**About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office**

*The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue justice and support victims daily across San Diego County. DA Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families and providing justice to the voiceless and most vulnerable. She is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for 28 years.*

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