



**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANEL PHILLIPS, age 45, of Belington, West Virginia, was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, with the first 5 months being served in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons and the second 5 months being served under home detention. PHILLIPS was also ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$85,327.74 to Legal Aid of West Virginia. PHILLIPS entered a plea of guilty on March 27, 2013, to “Federal Program Fraud.” From January of 2007 to May of 2010, PHILLIPS, while working as a ombudsman for Legal Aid of West Virginia, submitted false mileage claims and time sheets to fraudulently obtain over \$90,000 from the federally funded Long-Term Care Ombudsman Fund. PHILLIPS, who is free on bond, will self-report to the designated Federal institution. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew R. Cogar and investigated by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Legal Services Corporation-Office of Inspector General.