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# Farmington lawyer charged with conspiracy in lawsuit

By JACKIE KLEIN

A Farmington lawyer faces charges of conspiracy and obstructing justice in connection with solicitation of workmen's compensation claims, according to Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley.

Arthur S. Woll, 2866 Hamblewood, Farmington, was indicted on May 11 by the Wayne County Citizens Grand Jury.

Hearings for the defendants will be June 4 in Dearborn's 18th District Court before Judge Joseph Bartell. Charges, Kelley said, stem from an investigation conducted by his office in cooperation with the Michigan State Bar's grievance board.

Also charged was Robert Kodow of West Bloomfield, a partner in Woll's Southfield law firm, and Stewart Steinberger of South-

field, a legal investigator for the firm. These charges were announced in Wayne County Circuit Court after their arrest by agents of Kelley's organized crime division and officers from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, which took up the case beginning "Named in the grand jury indictment."

A Southfield legal investigator and law firm face a June 4 court hearing on charges of conspiracy and obstructing justice in connection with solicitation of workmen's compensation claims, according to Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley.

Stewart Steinberger, the legal investigator, and Robert Kodow and Arthur S. Woll, members of the law firm in which the investigator is employed, and 13 other individuals were indicted Wednesday, April 28 by Wayne County Citizens Grand Jury.

Woll, a Farmington resident and Kodow, a West Bloomfield resident, who practice law together in Southfield, were arrested on charges of engaging in a conspiracy to solicit personal injury claims and with solicitation of such claims.

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Named in the grand jury indictment is the Southfield law firm of Kodow, Jasmer and Woll, and attorney Frederick Jasmer, who has been charged.

THE GRAND JURY indictment states, in addition to the charges, a number of persons solicited workmen's compensation claims for the law firm and were paid between \$50 and \$80 per case.

Other defendants charged and arrested in connection with solicitation of personal injury claims and conspiracy are: Robert Beard, a Detroit resident employed by General Motors; Bernard Pollock of Detroit, a recording secretary of Local 22; Ken Turner, Beaverville, treasurer of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 808; Perry Jackson, Detroit, employed by Ford Motor Co. and a part-time staff member of the United Auto Workers union; Eddiel Binson of Detroit, also charged with perjury; Paul Souliere of Sterling Heights, employed by General Motors and by the United Auto Workers union on a part-time basis; Thomas Jackson, Detroit, employed by Chrysler Corp., also charged with perjury; Eddie Granberry and Warren Smith of Detroit, employments unknown.

ACCORDING TO the grand jury indictment, a defendant invited retired Local 22 members to numerous meetings by letter, stating they could make application for workmen's compensation at the meeting. He said he was the only person in Local 22 authorized to assist retirees in making their claims.

The defendant, the indictment read, told retired members they had all worked for many years and had all probably suffered injuries. He maintained they had workmen's compensation benefits coming to them.

"The defendant distributed and collected cards for members to fill in their names and addresses," according to the indictment. "He introduced attorney Arthur S. Woll who spoke to them. After the meetings, retired local members were contacted by Woll, Robert Kodow or a person from their law firm and asked to give information regarding their claims."

Binson, Beard, Turner, Perry and Thornton Jackson and Souliere also solicited

workmen's compensation claims for Woll, Kodow and their firm and were paid for each person solicited. It was charged.

According to the indictment, in November, 1973, Woll began to represent Maurice Brackney in a workmen's compensation claim against Republic Steel. Woll also had Brackney soliciting personal injury claims for him and his law firm. It was stated.

IN MARCH, 1974, Brackney complained to the State Bar grievance board about Woll's failure to expedite his case and Woll was notified by the board, the indictment says.

"In July, 1975, Brackney gave a deposition to the board indicating he had worked for Woll as a runner for personal injury claims," according to the charges.

"Brackney became aware of attorney Samuel A. Melnik and made an appointment to see him in his office in the Travelers Tower Building in Southfield. Melnik called Woll and told him Brackney was in his office. Several minutes later, Woll came in and threatened to kill Brackney."

"WOLL TOLD Brackney he wanted him to write a letter retracting charges and accusations against him. Melnik agreed and he and Woll dictated a retraction letter they had Brackney write to Administrative Law Judge Ernest Hagler."

The next day, the indictment continues, Woll told Brackney if he were responsible for pulling his bar ticket, Brackney would die. Woll also suggested Brackney leave the state and he would make it monetarily worthwhile. Brackney agreed to go to Florida.

According to the indictment, Brackney was given \$150 for plane fare to Florida by a person representing Woll who continued to send money.



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