

PRESS RELEASE

Former LWC Subcontractor Sentenced to 6 Months for Cares Act Fraud and Theft

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For Immediate Release

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

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NEW ORLEANS – Acting U.S. Attorney Michael M. Simpson announced that **JAZMIN J. BOUGERE**, age 38, a resident of Raceland, Louisiana, was sentenced on July 17, 2025 to (6) six months of incarceration with (6) six months of home detention to follow by U.S. District Court Judge Barry W. Ashe after pleading guilty to a one-count bill of information for theft of government funds related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

The CARES Act is a federal law enacted on March 29, 2020, to provide emergency financial assistance in connection with economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act created a temporary federal unemployment insurance program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) after a major disaster declaration for this funding. PUA, administered by the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), provided unemployment insurance benefits for individuals who are not eligible for other types of unemployment benefits (e.g., the self-employed, independent contractors, or gig economy workers).

According to court documents, **BOUGERE**, in May 2020, received and facilitated \$144,003 from Louisiana Workforce Commission, \$2,100 from Arizona unemployment, \$119,936 from California unemployment, \$105,133 from Colorado Department of Labor, \$2,000 from Kentucky unemployment, \$2,484 from Maryland unemployment, \$1,872 from Minnesota unemployment, and \$7,872 from Texas unemployment in improperly paid Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims during the pandemic. The total losses connected to fraudulent UI claims and other fraud was approximately \$275,000.

In addition to incarceration and home detention, **BOUGERE** was sentenced to 3 years of supervised release, along with a \$100 mandatory special assessment fee for each count.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors and assists agencies tasked with administering relief programs to prevent fraud by, among other methods, augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the Department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

For more information on the Department of Justice's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>. Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCDF Web Complaint Form at <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

Acting U.S. Attorney Simpson praised the work of the Department of Labor – Office of the Inspector General, in investigating this matter. Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward J. Rivera was in charge of the prosecution.

Contact

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United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana

United States Department of Justice

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