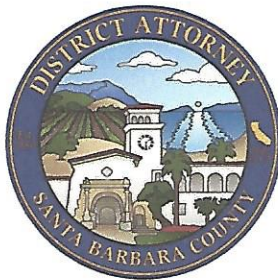


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 04-351

RELEASE NUMBER

April 1, 2016

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Kelly D. Scott, Chief Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2309

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

April 1, 2016

Re: *People v. Bradley Walter Hardison*, Case No. 1494744

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Bradley Walter Hardison pled no contest to one misdemeanor count of financial conflict of interest, a violation of Government Code section 1090.

Hardison was the Financial Aid Director at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) until his separation on July 31, 2015. While employed at SBCC it was discovered that Hardison willfully and unlawfully entered into contracts on behalf of SBCC, in which he had a direct financial interest. The contracts involved work Hardison's spouse performed as an independent contractor for a non-profit corporation for SBCC's Financial Aid Department. The contracts totaled more than \$51,000. The investigation revealed that Hardison personally negotiated the contracts with his spouse, and was untruthful about this fact when questioned by SBCC officials.

Government Code section 1090 prohibits public employees or officials from being financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity. A public employee also has a financial interest in the income of his or her spouse. The goal of section 1090 is to prevent public officials from exploiting their positions for their personal benefit. Violations of section 1090 must be "willful," which means that the public employee's actions under the contract must be purposeful and with knowledge that he or she might have a financial interest in the contract.

As part of a plea agreement with the District Attorney's Office, Bradley Walter Hardison paid full restitution to SBCC and was placed on one year probation.

□ SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2453

□ SANTA MARIA OFFICE
Santa Maria, CA 93454
312-D East Cook Street
(805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

□ LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732