

OPERATION CAT TALE:
Case Fact Sheet

United States v. Isis Society For Inspirational Studies, Inc., a/k/a the "Temple of Isis"

The Isis Society for Inspirational Studies, also known as the "Temple of Isis," is a California corporation located in Geyserville, California. The Temple of Isis is charged with conspiring to violate the Endangered Species Act through the illegal sale of six ocelots to purchasers in Texas, Florida, Oregon and Minnesota. Throughout the course of the conspiracy, the Information alleges, the Temple of Isis agreed with ocelot purchasers to mischaracterize the sale of ocelots as "donations," and to mischaracterize the payments for these ocelots as "contributions" to charitable organizations affiliated with the defendant, including the "Temple of Isis" and the "Isis Oasis Sanctuary." The purchasers falsified federal forms to maintain the "donation" cover story.

The Temple of Isis has entered a plea agreement with the United States whereby it admits its participation in the charged conspiracy and further that it took steps to cover up the sales by agreeing with purchasers to mischaracterize the sales as "donations." The Temple of Isis has further agreed to plead guilty as charged.

The parties have agreed to recommend to the Court that the Temple of Isis be fined \$60,000 – twice the value of the illegally sold ocelots – and be placed on federal probation for a period of two years. (The recommendation of the parties is not binding on the Court; rather, it is merely a recommendation. Sentencing is solely the responsibility of the Court.)

The agreement also requires the Temple of Isis to cooperate fully with the investigation.

United States v. Great Cats of the World, Inc.

Great Cats of the World is an Oregon corporation located in Cave Junction, Oregon, which formerly operated in Minnesota under the name "Center for Endangered Cats." The Information filed in this case alleges that the Center for Endangered Cats purchased an ocelot from the Temple of Isis and falsified a federal form by claiming that the ocelot had been "donated," when in fact the Center for Endangered Cats paid thousands of dollars for the ocelot.

Great Cats of the World has entered a plea agreement with the United States whereby it agrees to plead guilty as charged, admits that it purchased an ocelot illegally, and admits that it took steps to cover up the sale, falsifying a federal form to claim that the sale was a "donation."

The parties have agreed to recommend that Great Cats of the World pay a fine of \$10,000 and be placed on federal probation for a period of one year. The defendant has also agreed to forfeit the illegally purchased ocelot. The agreement also requires Great Cats of the World to cooperate fully with the investigation.

United States v. Amelia Rasmussen

Amelia Rasmussen is a resident of Nixon, Texas. The Information filed in this case alleges that Rasmussen purchased two ocelots from the Temple of Isis and falsified a federal form by claiming that the ocelots had been "donated" to her, when in fact she paid thousands of dollars for the ocelots.

Rasmussen has entered a plea agreement with the United States whereby she agrees to plead guilty as charged and admits that she purchased the ocelots illegally, and further that she took steps to cover up the sale by falsifying a federal form, claiming that the sale was a "donation." The agreement also requires Rasmussen to give truthful, complete information and cooperate fully with the investigation.

The parties have agreed to recommend that Rasmussen pay a fine of \$15,000 and be placed on

federal probation for a period of one year.

United States v. Jackie Sinott

Jackie Sinott is a resident of Silverton, Oregon. The Information filed in this case alleges that Sinott purchased an ocelot from the Temple of Isis and falsified a federal form by claiming that the ocelot had been "donated" to her, when in fact she paid thousands of dollars for the ocelot.

The United States and Sinott have agreed to enter a pre-trial diversion agreement which requires her to pay a fine of \$10,000 and take responsibility for her actions. In exchange, if defendant obeys all state and federal laws for a period of six months and meets other conditions, the government will move to dismiss the charges against her.

United States v. Glenn Donnelly

The charges against Donnelly allege that he bought two ocelots from Deborah Walding in April 2002 in violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act. The Lacey Act makes it illegal to receive or transport an animal sold in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Walding was convicted of illegal ocelot trafficking in 2005. The Indictment against Donnelly also alleges that Donnelly falsified a federal form by claiming that the sale was a "donation."

An indictment is only an allegation of criminal activity. The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Donnelly has been summoned to answer the charges against him on August 4, 2006.

The Civil Fines

Three people have been fined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a part of this investigation.

- § Konstantin Lyavdansky of Kingston, Pennsylvania was fined \$2,075 for selling a coat made of ocelot fur to Deborah Walding through Ebay
- § Jeannette Giacinto of Tarzana, California was fined \$525 for illegal delivery of an endangered species, namely, an ocelot, from California to Washington
- § Collette Griffiths of Vancouver, Washington was fined \$525 for illegal transportation of an endangered species, namely, an ocelot, from California to Washington