

## News Release

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Ohio

For Release:

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United States Attorney

Richard H. Blake  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
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Gregory A. White, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, today announced the filing of a one-count indictment charging Valentin D. Ducu, age 28, with making materially false statements in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a).

According to the indictment, Ducu provided false information to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency when he applied to take the state's examination for certification to operate one of the state's drinking water plant facilities. The indictment charges that Ducu falsely represented in his application that he held a Bachelor of Science degree and was currently working as a level II water plant operator at another drinking water plant facility. According to the indictment, Ducu does not hold a Bachelor of Science degree and was never employed by the drinking water plant facility for which he claimed to work.

The actual sentence in this case, upon conviction, will be determined by the Court under the mandatory Federal Sentencing Guidelines which depend upon a number of factors unique to each case, including the defendant's prior

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION  
CLEVELAND AREA OFFICE

criminal record, if any, the defendant's role in the offense and the unique characteristics of the violation. In all cases, the sentence will not exceed the statutory maximum and in most cases it will be less than the maximum.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard H. Blake, of the Economic Crimes Unit of the United States Attorneys Office in Cleveland. The investigation was conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigative Division.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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- Thomas Kohl, Jr., Special Agent in Charge
- Mather Shepard, Prosecution Specialist
- Cedric Hall, Administrative Specialist
- Fred Brown, Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel

SEARCHED *Paul Robina*

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