NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Bans Seven Convicted Criminals from E-Rate Program

Enforcement Bureau Debarments Mean None of the Individuals Can Participate in Any Universal Service Fund Program

WASHINGTON, September 3, 2026—Today, the Federal Communications Commission debarred seven individuals from participating in the FCC's E-Rate program and any other program funded by the Universal Service Fund. These convicted criminals had illegally enriched themselves through schemes to defraud the E-Rate program, including by lying in official filings with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and overbilling the E-Rate program.

The FCC takes very seriously its responsibility to combat fraud, waste, and abuse in Universal Service Fund (USF) programs, and its Enforcement Bureau works diligently to protect these funds from misuse. Earlier this year, the FCC voted to bolster its suspension and debarment rules to enable the agency to take quicker and more comprehensive action against wrongdoers so as to better protect these programs from abuse and ensure that limited resources are used responsibly to connect all Americans.

Chairman Brendan Carr issued the following statement:

"The FCC has been clear that criminals who defraud our connectivity programs will face debarment. The idea of these bad actors targeting the E-Rate program to line their own pockets is unconscionable. I want to thank our federal enforcement partners and the great folks here at the FCC for their hard work on these cases."

Additional Background Information:

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued Notices of Debarment for seven individuals today following Notices of Suspension issued earlier this year. Each individual has been found guilty of crimes related to the USF-supported E-Rate program, which is designed to enhance access to advanced telecommunications and information services for all public and nonprofit elementary and secondary school classrooms and libraries. Those who are being banned from the USF programs today are:

- **Donatus Anyanwu and Donna Woods of Texas** – Knowingly conspired to defraud the E-Rate program of more than $337,000 by using Woods' position as CEO of Nova Charter School in Texas to select Anyanwu's company, ADI Engineering, as the school's E-Rate provider.

- **Shawn Clemmons of Ohio** – As executive director of E-Rate program service provider South Central Ohio Computer Association, Clemmons unlawfully withheld reimbursements to schools longer than allowed; regularly used USAC reimbursements from one year to pay schools the reimbursements they were owed for the previous year; and one year, he caused all but one of the client public schools to not receive their reimbursements. A court ordered him to pay more than $3.2 million in restitution.

- **Kenneth Collura of Ohio –** Knowingly submitted a false certification to USAC that a contract between the Diocese of Columbus Office of Catholic Schools and the South Central Ohio Computer Association covered no ineligible services, when the charges under the contract were inflated and included expenses not eligible for E-Rate funding.

- **John Comito of New York** – Knowingly and intentionally devised a scheme to defraud USAC and 26 schools in New York City in order to obtain money and property from them. A court ordered Comito to pay more than $505,000 in restitution and a fine of $250,000.

- **Charles Jones of Tennessee** – Pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to commit wire fraud that involved submitting fabricated documents in Tennessee and Missouri to defraud the E-Rate program. For a decade, Jones and others siphoned more than $6 million from the E-Rate program to benefit companies he owned.

- **Mark Whitaker of Tennessee –** Failed to report the knowing transmission of materially false communications and documents to the federal government with the intent of defrauding the E-Rate program.

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