



**United States Attorney's Office District of  
Connecticut  
Press Release**

**January 30,  
2009**

**NEW YORK MAN ADMITS DEFRAUDING CONNECTICUT PUBLIC  
SCHOOL SYSTEMS WITH BOGUS MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES**

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that RONALD SCHONGAR, 62, of Clifton Park, New York, pleaded guilty today before Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven to one count of mail fraud stemming from a mold remediation scheme that defrauded three Connecticut public school districts.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, SCHONGAR, using his company, *Microb Phase*, was hired by school districts in Easton, Manchester and Bristol, Connecticut to use "The Microb Phase Process" and apply the product "Microb Shield" in order to provide mold remediation services for buildings within those districts. Between 2001 and January 2004, SCHONGAR deceived representatives from the Connecticut school districts by falsely representing that "Microb Shield" was a product registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, bearing registration number 64881-3. However, "Microb Shield" was never registered with the EPA and the product bearing EPA registration number 64881-3 was, in reality, called "Microbe Shield," and registered to *AEGIS Environmental*, located in Midland, Michigan. SCHONGAR and his company had no authorization from *AEGIS Environmental* to apply the "Microbe Shield" product or to use EPA registration number 64881-3 to promote any product associated with SCHONGAR or *Microb Phase*.

SCHONGAR also deceived representatives from the Connecticut school districts by falsely representing that he and/or Microb Phase had a partnering relationship with the EPA when no such relationship existed.

Judge Burns has scheduled sentencing for April 17, at which time SCHONGAR faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division, with assistance of the Easton Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward T. Kang and Special Assistant United States Attorney Andrew Lauterback.

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