

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
July 29, 2009
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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted a suspended Atlantic County lawyer today for her alleged conspiracy, distribution and attempted distribution of Oxycodone pills, First Assistant Prosecutor Murray Talasnik stated.

Avis Cole, 51, of Hamilton Township, was indicted on three counts of conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances, two counts of attempted distribution of controlled dangerous substances over ½ an ounce and distribution of controlled dangerous substances in an amount of over ½ an ounce, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Cary Shill, who presented the case to the Grand Jury, said.

It is alleged that from December 2008 through February 2009, Cole conspired with a former client, to distribute prescription pills. She allegedly had her former client sell hundreds of Oxycodone pills. It is further alleged that Cole would obtain prescriptions from area doctors and have them filled at various pharmacies. During the course of the investigation Cole received approximately \$3,000 as proceeds from her former client selling the pills in Galloway Township, Pleasantville and Atlantic City, Talasnik stated.

Members of the Gangs Guns and Narcotics Unit arrested Cole without incident at her home on March 3. She was transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of \$20,000 cash or bond bail. She remains free on bail pending further legal proceedings.

If convicted, Cole could face up to 10 years in prison on the second-degree drug charges.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.**

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for

information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.