



## MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2022

On May 20, 2022, the U.S. District Court announced that Anthony Kelley of Jackson plead guilty to two counts of wire fraud in a scheme to steal federal funds from U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Anthony Kelley, 59, of Jackson owns Trendsetters Barber College located in Jackson, Mississippi. Trendsetters is licensed as a barber school by the Mississippi State Board of Barber Examiners. Between early October 2016 through March 2019, an investigator from the U.S. Department of Veterans Inspector General office worked with our office concerning the facts and circumstances of this case. Kelley offered a Master Barber course that was not an accredited course of study or approved by the state's Board of Barber Examiners. "The barber board have not approved a master barber program in this state," according to Sharron White, Executive Director. Kelley fraudulently misrepresented the master barber course as an approved course of study. This action resulted in Mr. Kelley fraudulently collecting GI Bill money from veterans enrolled in the program. Kelley was charged with two count of wire fraud on April 22, 2021.

According to the VA investigation, two veterans were enrolled in the Master Barber program using their GI Bill benefits. As a result, the VA made an interstate wire transfers of federal funds to Kelley based on his fraudulent representations. "The Board is charged with protecting the consumers and its licensees from infectious diseases as well as fraud and waste of government funds said," Michael McBunch, President of the Board.

We commend the VA Office of Inspector General and U.S Attorney's Office for their commitment to protecting the Post 9/11 GI Bill and other critical programs that assist our veterans,' said Director Sharron White.

The Board will convene on August 21, 2022, to determine if Mr. Kelley's licenses, both individual and school will be revoked or suspended.

"We appreciate the support to the investigation by our board office staff and inspectors," said Director Sharron White.