

Lawyer Cops To Involvement In Leagle.com Cyberattack

By [Kevin Penton](#)

Law360 (October 16, 2019, 12:23 PM EDT) -- A Kansas-based attorney has pled guilty to knowing about cyberattacks waged on his behalf against Leagle.com and others, prosecutors have announced.

Bradley A. Pistotnik, 63, of Wichita, Kansas, pled guilty on Tuesday to three counts of being an accessory after the fact to cyberattacks against Leagle, RipoffReport.com and law firm Jaburg Wilk, according to an announcement by the [U.S. Attorney's Office](#) for the District of Kansas.

Prosecutors contended that Pistotnik knew that co-defendant David Dorsett in September 2014 had flooded the servers for websites maintained by the three entities with emails, rendering their communications systems inaccessible, according to court documents.

Dorsett, who had offered web design and reputation management services to Pistotnik that same month, allegedly asked the three entities to remove negative information on their websites concerning the attorney, according to Tuesday's plea agreement. Leagle's website included a disciplinary opinion issued by the Kansas Supreme Court against Pistotnik, while RipoffReport's site included a negative review concerning the attorney, according to the plea deal.

If they didn't, the emails threatened that the entities' advertisers would be targeted, according to the plea deal.

When the entities later asked Pistotnik about the threats, he denied any knowledge, according to prosecutors.

Dorsett later emailed Pistotnik an invoice for his related services, which the attorney paid for with a check, according to the plea deal.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Kenneth G. Gale on Tuesday ordered Pistotnik to pay a \$375,000

fine and \$55,200 in restitution, according to court documents.

"I am very pleased the government was willing to sit down and consider an appropriate resolution in this case," said Kepler B. Funk, an attorney representing Pistotnik, to Law360 on Wednesday. "No matter who you are, it is daunting facing a ten count felony indictment listing the United States of America as the plaintiff."

Jim Cross, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Kansas, told Law360 on Wednesday that the office declined to comment beyond its announcement.

The government is represented by Jason W. Hart and Carrie Capwell of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Kansas.

Pistotnik is represented by Kepler B. Funk, Kurt Kerns and Mark Schoenhofer.

The case is U.S. v. Pistotnik, case number 6:18-cr-10099, in the [U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas](#).