



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC WOMAN SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for defrauding two banks by writing more than \$150,000 in fraudulent checks on her employer's bank accounts.

**Valerie Sharon Baker**, 37, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to two years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Baker** to pay \$143,270 in restitution. Graves added that **Baker** already paid \$14,229 in restitution prior to today's sentencing.

On Sept. 13, 2002, **Baker** waived her right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty to a federal information charging her with writing \$158,256 in fraudulent checks on several different bank accounts. **Baker** admitted that she wrote at least five fraudulent checks, ranging in amount from \$330 to more than \$93,000, between July 1999 and December 2001.

Graves explained that **Baker** was employed as an accounting clerk for companies under the ownership and/or management of DiCarlo Construction Company (DiCarlo Construction Company, DiCarlo Construction Company South, Delta Equipment Company, and Mitchell Oil and Exploration) from April 1999 through Jan. 19, 2002. Her duties included managing funds for the businesses, including maintaining checking accounts and writing company checks. She also maintained the personal checking account of Marilee M. DiCarlo, an owner and vice president of DiCarlo Construction Company.

**Baker** admitted that she defrauded the two Kansas City, Mo., banks where these checking accounts were located – United Missouri Bank and County Club Bank. **Baker** embezzled funds from the DiCarlo companies and Marilee DiCarlo, Graves said, by making checks payable to herself, her creditors, and to her personal vendors.

**Baker** forged the signatures of company officers and of Marilee DiCarlo on the

fraudulent checks, Graves said, or referenced some invoice to be paid, either legitimate or not. **Baker** concealed her theft, Graves added, by making false entries into the DiCarlo company accounting records, and by disposing of monthly bank statements and fraudulently written cancelled checks.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)