



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LEE'S SUMMIT WOMAN SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING EMPLOYER**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lee's Summit woman was sentenced in federal court today for defrauding her former employer.

**Rhonda D. Brewer**, 47, of Lee's Summit, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to two years and 11 months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Brewer** to pay full restitution of \$354,122.

On March 19, 2003, **Brewer** interrupted the second day of a federal trial by pleading guilty to two counts of mail fraud and two counts of possessing and uttering a forged security. **Brewer** admitted that she liquidated the investment accounts of Dr. Grosvenor Roberts, for whom she had worked more than 25 years as a housekeeper, without his knowledge or authorization. Those accounts, Graves said, included 3,720 shares of Bell Atlantic Corporation stock and 2,140 shares of Lucent Technologies, Inc., stock, which were liquidated in seven separate transactions from April 1999 through July 2000.

After receiving the checks by mail from these stock liquidations, Graves explained, **Brewer** forged Roberts' endorsement and deposited these checks into his accounts, then wrote and forged checks for deposit to her own bank account totaling \$354,122.

**Brewer** had gained the confidence of Roberts and had keys and access to his home, Graves said. Because Roberts was in poor health, Graves added, he relied on **Brewer** for assistance in handling his checkbook and other financial papers.

Under the terms of her plea agreement, **Brewer** must cease all employment for services (whether housekeeping, care providing or otherwise) for all retired, elderly or disabled persons, unless and until approved by the United States Probation Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service.

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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)