



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

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

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

JULY 30, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOLT, MO., WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING FROM BANK

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Holt, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to embezzling nearly \$54,000 from Kearney Commercial Bank.

Sharon K. Cartwright, 52, of Holt, Mo., waived her right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to a federal information that charges her with one count of bank embezzlement.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Cartwright** admitted that she misapplied \$53,708 in bank funds while working as a cashier at Kearney Commercial Bank in Kearney, Mo., from January 1996 to March 29, 2000. **Cartwright** admitted that she used her position to make and disguise the unauthorized withdrawals. Her scheme was detected by the assistant cashier of the bank, Graves said, who noticed questionable deposits into **Cartwright's** accounts for herself and her family. She was confronted by other bank officers, and she was then fired.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Cartwright** could be subject to a sentence of up to 30 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million and an order of restitution. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth E. Weinfurt. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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