



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOKKEEPER SENTENCED FOR FORGING CHECKS TOTALING \$609,995

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City woman was sentenced in federal court today for forging checks drawn on her employers' bank accounts and other forms of embezzlement.

Kathleen M. Hayes, 44, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to two years and three months in federal prison without parole. She also was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$609,995.71 to those employers she defrauded.

On Aug. 14, 2003, **Hayes** pleaded guilty to forging her employer's signature on company checks, while working as a bookkeeper at Rogers Real Estate Services, Inc., located in Independence. She forged the business owner's signature using a rubber stamp between Dec. 21, 2000, and Oct. 14, 2001. **Hayes** admitted that she cashed the checks, deposited them into her personal account, or used them to purchase cashier's checks or money orders. In total, **Hayes** forged checks totaling \$533,820.08, from 10 different checking accounts.

After leaving Rogers Real Estate Services, **Hayes** obtained employment as a bookkeeper for Inteletech, Inc., d/b/a/ Beyond Bytes, in Independence, in March 2002. As bookkeeper, **Hayes'** employer gave her authority to prepare checks, use the company's MasterCard and American Express credit cards for business purposes and make deposits into the company's business account. The company's owner would often pre-sign blank checks for the use of **Hayes**. By pleading guilty, **Hayes** admitted that she completed those pre-signed checks, making them payable to fraudulent payees. She also made personal charges to the company's credit cards and took cash from the daily deposits. The total loss encountered by Beyond Bytes was \$76,175.63, between March 2002, through Jan. 22, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances Reddis. The case was

investigated by the United States Secret Service, Financial Crimes Task Force.

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