



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHVILLE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSPORTING STOLEN PROPERTY IN \$260,000 CHECK FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Smithville, Mo., woman pleaded guilty today to illegally issuing more than \$260,000 worth of checks drawn upon an Illinois bank, then depositing those checks into her personal bank account.

Patricia Lee Hubbard, 47, of Smithville, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to interstate transportation of stolen property.

Hubbard admitted that, while working as a controller for Grant Thornton, LLC, between July 1995 and May 1998, she unlawfully and without authorization issued checks drawn upon a bank account in Chicago, Ill. These checks were then deposited by **Hubbard** into her personal account at Platte Valley Bank. As a result, Graves explained, money was transferred from Illinois to Missouri.

Hubbard also admitted that the total loss to her victim is in excess of \$260,000.

Hubbard was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on April 15, 2003.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Hubbard** could be subject to a sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. The 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 U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark. 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