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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GULFPORT LAWYER SENTENCED TO 26 MONTHS OF
IMPRISONMENT FOR BANKRUPTCY EMBEZZLEMENT**

DUNN LAMPTON, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, and WILLIAM V. JENKINS, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Mississippi, announced that WILLIAM S. BOYD, III, of Gulfport, Mississippi, was sentenced today before United States District Judge Walter J. Gex, III, in federal district court in Gulfport, Mississippi. BOYD was convicted in October 2003 of bankruptcy embezzlement in connection with his representation of clients in United States Bankruptcy Court.

BOYD was sentenced to serve 26 months of imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release. BOYD also was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$395,500.00.

In addition, the court ordered Boyd to surrender his law license and not apply for readmission to the bar. The court additionally ordered that Boyd not serve in any employment position involving any fiduciary responsibilities. Boyd was ordered to self-surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on March 15, 2004.

The basis for BOYD's guilty plea was his misappropriation of funds received on behalf of Teme River Co., LP, a client BOYD represented in federal bankruptcy court in Biloxi, including his receipt of \$50,000.00 as a result of a transfer he made on December 15, 1999. As part of the plea, BOYD acknowledged his involvement in the transfer of other client funds and concealment of such embezzlement, including the transfer to his own use of a total of \$102,500.00 in client funds from Teme River during the period from December 1999 through February 2000, and \$61,000.00 belonging to the bankruptcy estate of Bobby and Cathy Foust in October 2001.

Assistant United States Attorney GAINES CLEVELAND was the prosecutor in charge of the case.

Mr. LAMPTON praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the United States Trustee for their diligent work in the investigation of this case.

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