



Department of Justice

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MONTGOMERY WOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR CASINO THEFTS

Employee Stole \$261,000 from Tallapoosa Entertainment Center

Montgomery, Alabama — Kala R. Dennis, age 26, of Montgomery, Alabama, was sentenced by United States District Judge L. Scott Coogler on January 16, 2009, to 46 months imprisonment based on her conviction on charges of conspiracy and embezzlement of funds from an Indian casino, United States Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Dennis will remain free on bail until February 17, 2009, at which time she is to report to prison to begin serving her sentence.

According to evidence at trial, Dennis was employed at the Tallapoosa Entertainment Center ("TEC") in Montgomery, which is owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. In July 2004, TEC employee Frederick Burrell developed a scheme whereby he could take money from TEC and make false entries on TEC records to conceal the thefts. After committing 2-3 thefts on his own, Burrell recruited Dennis to participate. She agreed, and over the next several months she and Burrell stole approximately \$128,000 together when they were both working. She also took \$131,000 on her own on days when Burrell was not working.

Today's sentencing is the latest development in this case. On April 27, 2006, Burrell pleaded guilty to a felony information charging him with theft from an Indian casino based on his role in the scheme. In his plea agreement, Burrell agreed to cooperate with the Government's

investigation. On October 2, 2008, Senior United States District Judge William H. Albritton sentenced Burrell to three years probation, including six months home confinement.

The investigation of Burrell and Dennis was led by the United States Department of Interior, Office of Inspector General, with the assistance of investigators from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew O. Schiff and Matthew W. Shepherd.