

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

***San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 21, 2009**

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Leticia Figuracion, a former employee of a San Diego financial institution, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable John A. Houston to serve 38 months in federal custody for bank fraud. In addition to the custodial sentence, Judge Houston ordered that Figuracion serve a five-year term of supervised release following her release from prison and pay \$1.5 million in restitution to the financial institution.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Joseph Orabona and John Owens, who prosecuted the case, defendant Figuracion admitted that she embezzled \$1.5 million from a branch of the financial institution. Defendant Figuracion engaged in this bank fraud scheme for more than 13 years, embezzling approximately \$10,000 per month in cash directly from the bank's cash vault. To further conceal her actions, Figuracion used a customer's account and changed the mailing address on the account so the customer would not learn of her actions. Defendant Figuracion sent a sizeable portion of the embezzled funds to family members in the Philippines and the United States and used some of the funds to open a restaurant in Los Angeles.

In sentencing defendant Figuracion, the Court credited her for coming forward and self-reporting her embezzlement.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case No. 09-CR-1622-JAH**

Leticia Figuracion

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

One Count -- Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344 - Bank Fraud

**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Federal Bureau of Investigation