



Department of Justice

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FORMER TAMPA TRIBUNE EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO FORTY-EIGHT MONTHS IN PRISON FOR EMBEZZLING OVER \$1 MILLION

TAMPA, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Virginia Hernandez-Covington today sentenced Charles T. Wilson and Lynda Wilson to forty-eight months and forty-one months, respectively, in federal prison. Charles Wilson pled guilty to conspiring with Lynda Wilson to defraud *The Tampa Tribune* and mail fraud, over a ten year period. He also made a false statement to a financial institution. Lynda Wilson pled guilty to the false statement charge. As part of their sentences, the court also entered monetary judgments against each defendant. With respect to Charles Wilson, a monetary judgment in the amount of \$1,474,329.20 and, with respect to Lynda Wilson, a judgment of \$417,000 was imposed.

According to court documents, Charles Wilson was the Credit Manager of *The Tampa Tribune*. From 1998 through 2008, he and his wife, Lynda Wilson, used CCL Services, a fake collections agency, to embezzle over one million dollars from his employer. In addition, both were charged with making false statements regarding the sources of their income on an application for a mortgage loan. The false statements hid the fact that a significant portion of their income was actually stolen from *The Tampa Tribune*.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas N. Palermo.