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**FORMER BOOKKEEPER OF LAFAYETTE SPA SENTENCED TO
37 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR WIRE FRAUD CHARGE**

Defendant is Ordered to Pay \$176,788.88 in Restitution

LAFAYETTE, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that a former bookkeeper for Coccolare Spa, located in Lafayette, La., was sentenced in federal court by U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote, to 37 months in prison and three years of supervised release following confinement. Judge Foote also ordered the defendant to pay restitution in the amount of \$176,788.88 to the victims and ordered the forfeiture of \$184,788.88.

Angie Normand, age 42, formerly of Breaux Bridge, La., was charged by Bill of Information on April 4, 2012, for one count of wire fraud. According to court documents filed at Normand's guilty plea on May 4, 2012, she was the bookkeeper at Coccolare Spa and created a scheme whereby she embezzled funds by cashing company checks from Coccolare Spa's account and subsequently converting a portion of the monies for her own use. Normand also falsely, and without authority, increased her own salary by manipulating her payroll information and wire transferring the inflated payments into her personal bank account. In order to conceal the scheme to defraud, Normand prepared false records, entries, and deposit slips, and altered payroll and tip records.

At the plea hearing, Normand acknowledged that she used and caused others to use interstate wire communications facilities to further her scheme to defraud. The total amount of money embezzled was \$184,788.88.

U.S. Attorney Finley stated: "Angie Normand violated the law. Her sole motivation was greed and she now faces serious consequences for her actions. Business owners of this community should know that my office will continue to aggressively prosecute individuals who defraud and embezzle from them."

The case was investigated by Special Agent James Bayrooty, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel J. McCoy.

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