



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:
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Event: Sentenced

Defendant: Patricia Keezer

**BANK MANAGER SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS AND 1 DAY
FOR EMBEZZLING OVER \$340,000 FROM BANK**

A 53-year-old Clinton woman who embezzled over \$340,000 while working as a bank manager for Citizens Bank (formerly known as Republic Bank) was sentenced to 12 months and 1 day in federal prison today, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced.

Joined in the announcement was FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena.

According to court records, Keezer's embezzlement was detected by the bank's fraud investigators in mid-October 2008, when they learned that a bag containing \$250,000 cash was missing from Keezer's branch. The bag was to be part of an armored car pickup on October 8. Review of video surveillance and an interview of the armored car driver revealed that there was no bag of cash in the armored car pickup. The bank log that Keezer prepared was additionally suspicious; it appeared that the \$250,000 line item for the cash shipment had been added later. The armored car driver confirmed that he picked up, and signed for, only coins. An audit conducted in connection with the bank's internal investigation revealed that Keezer's cash was additionally short by over \$90,000. Keezer ultimately admitted that she had taken over \$340,000 from the bank over the previous 8 years, and that to avoid detection in bank audits, she falsified documents and created fake straps of cash by taking two \$100 bills and placing them on the top and bottom of a stack of 98 \$1 bills.

Keezer pleaded guilty on June 21, 2009 to two counts of Embezzlement. In addition to the prison sentence, Federal District Court Judge Marianne O. Battani also ordered Keezer to pay restitution of \$340,909.68.

U.S. Attorney Berg thanked the FBI for their assistance in the successful investigation of the case. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erin Shaw