



*U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
Southern District of Mississippi*

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 29, 2010**

**FORMER COPIAH BANK EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR FEDERAL BANK FRAUD**

Jackson, Miss -- Lindsay Welch, 33, a former account service representative at Copiah Bank in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, was sentenced today in federal court to 27 months in prison, followed by 5 years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$250,000.00 in victim restitution, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter and FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel McMullen announced.

Welch pled guilty to federal bank fraud on September 30, 2009. It was revealed at the guilty plea that Welch had utilized her position as bookkeeper at Copiah Bank from April 2008 through November 2009 to manipulate the bank's computer system in order to increase her home equity line of credit from \$15,000.00 to \$350,000.00 without obtaining permission or consent. She then proceeded to withdraw over a quarter of a million dollars from that line of credit, depositing it into her personal accounts, and utilizing that money to purchase, among other things, four different automobiles for herself and her family. When confronted by the bank, Welch admitted to the crime.

U.S. Attorney Burkhalter commended the investigative efforts of the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mike Hurst.

###