



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley
District of North Dakota

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CONTACT: BETH LANG
PHONE: (701) 530-2420
FAX: (701) 530-2421

Bank Teller Sentenced for Theft and False Statements

MINOT - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on October 9, 2008, **Tamara L. McDonald**, 45, of Souris, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on charges of theft by a bank employee and false statements. **McDonald** pled guilty to the charges on July 28, 2008.

Judge Hovland sentenced **McDonald** to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a period of four months, to be followed by four months of home confinement. Judge Hovland recommended that the Federal Bureau of Prisons place **McDonald** at Centre, Inc., in Mandan to satisfy the four month period of imprisonment. Judge Hovland also ordered that **McDonald** be placed on supervised release for three years. **McDonald** was ordered to pay restitution of \$18,452.89 and to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

On March 25, 2008, an alleged robbery at the State Bank of Bottineau, Souris branch, was reported to law enforcement officials in Bottineau County. **McDonald** was

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employed at the bank as a bank teller and was discovered seemingly unconscious inside the vault. The initial investigation indicated that approximately \$18,000 in bank funds was unaccounted for.

As the bank was insured by the FDIC, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in the investigation. **McDonald** initially informed the FBI that she was about to lock the bank for her lunch break when she was assaulted from behind. She indicated that she did not see who assaulted her, but that another individual had been present at the bank that morning and had purportedly left right before the assault. The FBI focused their investigation on this individual. Eventually, the FBI became suspicious of **McDonald's** version of events. More than two weeks after the incident, when confronted by law enforcement, **McDonald** admitted that she had been taking money from the bank and that she had staged the robbery in an attempt to conceal that fact.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Minot Police Department, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and Bottineau County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney David Hagler prosecuted the case.

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