



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIDLAND ACCOUNTANT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney, announced that 39-year-old Dina Smith of Midland, Texas, was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison - 33 months for bank fraud and 24 months for embezzlement after she pleaded guilty to stealing approximately \$250,000 from Midland Pathology.

During the sentencing hearing on April 16, 2009, United States District Judge Robert Junell also ordered that Smith pay \$211,000.00 in restitution and be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing her prison term.

On January 20, 2009, Smith pleaded guilty to one count each of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. Ms. Smith was an accountant for an accounting firm and in that role, she embezzled over \$250,000 from one of the firm's clients, Midland Pathology. The victim noticed the missing money when they realized that money was still coming out of an account that they had asked the defendant not to use anymore. Further investigation revealed that the defendant was writing checks out of this account to herself and depositing them into her personal bank account. Midland Police Department executed a search warrant at her house and found receipts and property to show that she had spent the money on luxury items, such as a newly furnished house, big screen TV's, car payments, computers, video game systems, vacations, and cosmetic procedures

This case was investigated by the Midland Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Kerry Fleck prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.