U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMPLOYEE AND THREE OTHERS INDICTED FOR THEFT OF AIDS FUNDS

Little Rock –Bud Cummins, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today the indictment of Lola Thrower of North Little Rock (dob 7-3-60), Lamar Wright of Searcy (dob 1-13-53), Malik Blackmon of Little Rock (dob 8-11-64) and Lee Langston of Houston, Texas (dob 5-13-59).

Lola Thrower, who was a grant administrator for the State of Arkansas, is accused of acting in concert with the others to take grant money belonging to the federal government and using it for themselves. Thrower was the HIV Services Program Administrator for the Arkansas Department of Health.

A federal grand jury in Little Rock indicted Thrower and Blackmon on two counts each and Wright and Langston on one count each for aiding and abetting the theft of government property. Langston is additionally charged in the indictment with one count of theft of government funds. Each charge mentioned carries a maximum sentence of ten years and a fine of up to $250,000.

An indictment is merely an allegation of wrongdoing. Each defendant is presumed innocent until such time they are determined to be guilty beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury.

The nine page indictment follows describing the alleged illegal conduct.