



**U.S. Department of Justice**

***United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Arkansas***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SHERIDAN WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO  
MAIL FRAUD AND BANK FRAUD CHARGES**

**Little Rock** -- United States Attorney Jane W. Duke and Brian T. Marr, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Little Rock Field Office of the United States Secret Service (USSS), announced that Katherine A. West, age 39, of Sheridan, Arkansas, pled guilty yesterday to one count of mail fraud, one count of bank fraud and a forfeiture allegation.

The charges stem from West's theft of money from her place of employment, Lift Truck Service Center, Inc., where she was employed as an accounting clerk. As part of West's duties, she worked with accounts payable and had access to invoices and company checks. As a part of the mail fraud scheme, West caused company checks to be mailed to pay personal bills, including utilities for her home, cable, credit card, and payment for a vehicle. Payments for West's personal bills totaled approximately \$162,890.87. As a part of the bank fraud scheme, West caused company checks to be issued to fictitious businesses. She then took those checks and deposited them into a checking account that she had opened in the name of P & K Enterprises and used the proceeds. These deposits totaled approximately \$535,945.19.

The maximum statutory penalty for mail fraud is 20 years imprisonment. The maximum statutory penalty for bank fraud is 30 years imprisonment. Both counts carry a potential fine of \$250,000. West remains free on her own recognizance pending sentencing, which has not yet been set.

This investigation was conducted by agents with the Little Rock Field Office of the United States Secret Service and a Postal Inspector with the United States Postal Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jana Harris and Stephanie Mazzanti.

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