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PRESS RELEASE

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District Woman Sentenced to 27-Month Prison Term, Admitted to Embezzling More than \$210,000 From Non-Profit

WASHINGTON - Carolyn Mitchell, 47, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to 27 months of imprisonment for carrying out an embezzlement scheme against her employer for five years, announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr.

The employer, a non-profit organization which advocates for social justice, suffered losses of more than \$210,000, and because of the defendant's theft, was forced to lay off employees and reduce salaries of others. The sentence imposed today was the maximum suggested by the advisory federal sentencing guidelines for this offense.

Mitchell pled guilty in March 2011 to a charge that she possessed forged securities. She was sentenced by the Honorable Beryl A. Howell in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In addition to the prison term, the judge ordered the defendant to pay \$210,800 in restitution, to serve 36 months of supervised release, and to forfeit \$210,800 in a money judgment.

According to the government's evidence, Carolyn Mitchell worked at an organization identified in these proceedings as "NCL" as a bookkeeper and administrative assistant; her duties included preparing invoices and processing checks. NCL is a private, non-profit advocacy group, located in the District of Columbia. From 2005 to 2010, Mitchell engaged in a scheme to embezzle approximately \$210,800 from the NCL by misdirecting donor checks and by adding her own name to NCL checks made payable to vendors and then depositing the checks into her own bank account. The total amount stolen by the two methods was \$210,800.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Vince Tucci and U.S. Attorney's Office Paralegal Specialist Sarah Reis. He also acknowledged the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Virginia Cheatham, who prosecuted the case with assistance from the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office.