



Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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FORMER RANDSTAD BRANCH MANAGER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Cynthia Whitehead Used Real Names of Former Employees in Fraud Scheme

Atlanta, GA - CYNTHIA WHITEHEAD, 44, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Orinda D. Evans to serve 5 years, 1 month in federal prison on charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Acting United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "This employee had unique access to company funds as well as the trust of the company to appropriately use those funds for legitimate business purposes. Instead, she embezzled over a quarter of a million dollars for herself by causing the company she worked for to pay wages and keeping these "wages" for herself. Because of her fraud she is going to federal prison."

Jeffrey Gilbert, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service in Atlanta said, "This case demonstrates both the wide-reaching effects of embezzlement, its impact on innocent victims, and the importance of cooperation among our local area businesses and law enforcement. The Secret Service takes an aggressive approach towards the prevention and investigation of aggravated identity theft, wire fraud and embezzlement among local businesses and banks. As an investigative priority, we strive to maintain the safety, public trust and integrity of our financial infrastructure."

WHITEHEAD was sentenced to 5 years, 1 month in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$286,388.37 in restitution. WHITEHEAD was convicted of these charges on July 8, 2009 upon her plea of guilty.

According to Acting United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: From 2004 to 2007, WHITEHEAD was employed as a Branch Manager for Randstad North America, an international staffing firm in Sandy Springs. Because of the position of trust WHITEHEAD held with the company, she had access to corporate records, including personal identifiers of former employees and the mechanism for paying wages. WHITEHEAD reactivated the employment status of more than a dozen former employees in the company's data system, made entries which falsely showed that these former employees were currently working for Randstad clients, arranged for the payment of their wages, and accessed the company's payroll accounts to collect those wages for herself. Over a 3-year period, WHITEHEAD embezzled approximately \$300,000.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service.

Assistant United States Attorney David E. McClernan prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, Acting United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.