



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FORMER EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO 28 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR DEFRAUDING SOUTH BELOIT COMPANY OUT OF ALMOST \$250,000**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **PATRICIA A. JEFFERS**, 57 (DOB: 05/11/49), 2229 Alongi Lane, Beloit, Wisconsin, to 28 months in federal prison for defrauding her former employer, Northwind Concrete Products Company ("Northwind") of South Beloit, Illinois, out of almost \$250,000. The court also ordered Jeffers to serve 3 years of supervised release following her release from prison and to pay \$246,328.38 in restitution.

On March 24, 2006, Jeffers pleaded guilty to a federal mail fraud charge. In her plea agreement, Jeffers acknowledged that she had been employed as an accounts payable clerk at Northwind, from 1997 through October 2005. During the plea hearing, Jeffers admitted that from January 16, 2003, through October 6, 2005, she fraudulently caused Northwind to pay \$246,328.38 of her personal credit card expenses. Jeffers acknowledged that she executed this fraud by inputting her credit card bills into Northwind's computer system as company payables. Jeffers then caused Northwind's computer system to generate checks for all of the payables that had been input. Jeffers further admitted that, with regard to the checks for her credit cards, she stamped the signature of Northwind's president on the checks and then mailed the checks off to her credit card companies. Jeffers acknowledged that all of the Northwind checks to her credit card companies paid her personal expenses, including gambling expenses.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Scott A. Verseman.

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