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October 30, 2007

**FORMER ROCHELLE BANK EXECUTIVE SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR EMBEZZLING OVER \$150,000**

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

United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala today sentenced **EDWARD J. HICKEY**, age 67, Rochelle, Illinois, to 15 months in federal prison without parole for embezzling more than \$150,000 from his former employer, Lincoln State Bank (“LSB”) of Rochelle, Illinois.

Hickey pled guilty on September 6, 2007. In pleading guilty, Hickey acknowledged that he was employed as a director and senior vice president of LSB from its opening in 1999 until he resigned on October 13, 2005. As part of his plea agreement, Hickey admitted that as an officer of LSB, he was issued a corporate credit card to use to pay bank-related expenses. Hickey further admitted that between December 15, 2000 and October 13, 2005, he incurred \$92,860.46 in charges on his LSB corporate credit card which were not for bank related purposes. Hickey admitted that he did not reimburse the bank for these personal expenses.

As part of the plea agreement, Hickey also admitted that between March 2001 and March 2004 he granted over \$100,000 in loans to family members and that he used part of the loan proceeds for his personal benefit without disclosing his involvement in the transactions as required by federal banking regulations. Hickey also admitted that between January 2001 and September 2005, he embezzled \$9,534.59 in bank funds by debiting general ledger expense accounts and crediting his joint checking account at LSB. Hickey also acknowledged that between December 2000 and October 13, 2005, he intercepted 22 checks payable to LSB and used them to purchase \$25,824.16 in cashier’s checks which he then used for his personal benefit. Hickey admitted that he deposited some of cashier’s checks into his joint checking account and used some of the checks to make payments on personal loans. Hickey also admitted that he deposited \$3,853.68 in bank funds into four different general ledger accounts to conceal the fact that he used \$5,000 of LSB’s funds to make a down payment on a house purchased by one of his relatives.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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