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MONROE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL MAIL FRAUD CHARGE

Stolen Merchandise Nets \$175,395 From eBay Sales

Monroe, Louisiana... Stephanie R. Payne, 40, of Monroe, La., pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud relating to the sale of stolen merchandise on eBay, Acting United States Attorney William J. Flanagan announced today.

During today's court proceeding, Payne admitted to stealing merchandise from national retailers with a location in Monroe, La., on at least 11 different occasions from October to December 2009, which she then sold on eBay. Additionally, Payne admitted to listing 11,613 stolen items for sale on eBay from September 2006 to February 2009, which sold for approximately \$175,395.

Payne faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Sentencing is scheduled for August 16, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Postal Inspector, and the Monroe Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States C. Mignonne Griffing.

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