



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**



# News Release

**B. Todd Jones,  
United States Attorney**

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## **Brooklyn Park man pleads guilty to embezzling \$1.9 million from his employer**

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 36-year-old Brooklyn Park man pleaded guilty to embezzling approximately \$1.9 million by diverting checks issued to vendors for his personal use. Brandon Vi Tran, who was charged on May 2, 2011, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. He entered his plea before United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz.

In his plea agreement, Tran admitted that between 2005 and October 28, 2010, he embezzled the funds. Tran was employed at Diamond Graphics, Inc., as an accountant and was responsible for creating checks which were payable to various vendors for their work. Once a check was created, it was presented to one of four individuals in the company who had the power to endorse the check. Once endorsed, the check was sent to the vendor. However, Tran began to deposit vendor checks into his bank accounts.

For his crime, Tran faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on the wire fraud count and ten years on the money laundering count. Judge Schiltz will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian S. Wilton.

This law enforcement action is in part sponsored by the interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. The task force was established to wage an aggressive, coordinated and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. It includes representatives from a broad range of federal agencies, regulatory authorities, inspectors general, and state and local law enforcement who, working together, bring to bear a powerful array of criminal and civil

enforcement resources. The task force is working to improve efforts across the federal executive branch and, with state and local partners, investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, combat discrimination in the lending and financial markets, and recover proceeds for victims of financial crimes.

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