



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7, 2010**

**FORMER LOAN OFFICER FOR HANCOCK BANK
SENTENCED FOR FEDERAL BANK FRAUD**

Hattiesburg, Miss -- Pamela Swilley, 40, a former loan officer for Hancock Bank in Petal, Mississippi, was sentenced today to 15 months in prison, followed by 5 years of supervised release, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter and FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel McMullen announced. Swilley, a resident of Petal, was also ordered to pay back \$83,414.87 in restitution to Hancock Bank in connection with her bank fraud.

From 2006 through 2009, Swilley fraudulently created cashiers checks in false names and in the names of real customers, cashing them and taking the money for her own personal benefit. Swilley also funded some loans twice in order to take the second loan proceeds, which she sometimes used to pay her mortgage. In perpetuating her scheme, Swilley falsified Social Security Numbers, insurance paperwork and even vehicle identification numbers for loans in order to conceal her fraud through the underwriting process. She also created new loans to pay off previous loans, using different bank branch tickets to pay off previous bank branch tickets in order to hide her fraud. She ultimately admitted to the scheme and to taking approximately \$71,000. Further investigation revealed that Swilley had stolen an additional \$12,414.87.

U.S. Attorney Burkhalter praised the efforts of special agents from the FBI Office in Gulfport, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst, who is prosecuting the case.

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