



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**FORMER PRESIDENT OF MAILERS UNION SENTENCED
IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON
FOR EMBEZZLING UNION FUNDS**

PREET BHARARA, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that WAYNE MITCHELL was sentenced in Manhattan federal court to two years in prison for embezzling \$373,555 from the Communication Workers of America Union, Local 14170 (the "Mailers Union"). The Mailers Union is a local union that represents mailroom employees of New York-based newspapers, including, among others, *The New York Times*, the *New York Post* and the *New York Daily News*.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "Wayne Mitchell betrayed the trust of the members he was elected to serve by putting his own financial interests ahead of their needs. We will continue to work with our partners at the Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, to prosecute and convict corrupt union officers who hold themselves above the law."

According to documents previously filed in Manhattan federal court as well as statements made during the case:

Between October 2004 and May 2008, MITCHELL was the president of the Mailers Union. In 2007, a long-time union member (the "Whistleblower") asked Mailers Union officers for copies of the union's LM-2 forms (the "LM Reports") filed annually with the Department of Labor. The 2006 LM Report reflected a salary of \$200,000 for MITCHELL - an amount substantially above the maximum salary allowed under the union's constitution. At a February 2008 Mailers Union board meeting, when questioned about his salary by the Whistleblower and others, MITCHELL claimed that his salary was mistakenly overstated on the 2006 LM Report, and that a new accountant would file an amended report.

In June 2008, MITCHELL stepped down as president of the Mailers Union. In early 2010, MITCHELL was interviewed by U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards ("DOL-OLMS") investigators and admitted that he embezzled union funds. Ultimately, MITCHELL told investigators that he embezzled a total of \$373,555. Specifically, MITCHELL admitted that he received \$197,490 in unauthorized payroll checks and that he falsely claimed an additional \$176,065 as union-related bills when in fact they were personal expenses.

In addition to the prison sentence, U.S. District Judge ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN also imposed a sentence of three years of supervised release and ordered MITCHELL to pay \$373,555 in restitution to the Mailers Union.

MITCHELL, 58, of Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, will voluntarily surrender to a federal correctional institution on March 8, 2011.

Mr. BHARARA praised the work of DOL-OLMS.

This case was prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney MICHAEL BOSWORTH is in charge of the prosecution.

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