



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Thomas Couple Indicted; Wife Charged with Theft of Federal Program Funds

St. Thomas, USVI - Lauritz Mills, Director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research, and her husband, Frank Mills, were arraigned today in District Court on St. Thomas on federal and local criminal charges, announced United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe and Rhonda A. Diffenbach, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division (IRS-CID).

A federal grand jury returned a three-count superseding indictment on May 17, 2011, charging Lauritz Mills with embezzling or stealing property valued at more than \$5,000 or more while she worked as the Director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research. According to the superseding indictment, Lauritz Mills embezzled or stole benefits in excess of \$10,000 from the HRSA State Planning Grant Program and the FY 2006 Economic Development Planning Grant Fund during a one-year period ending December 31, 2006.

In addition, both Lauritz and Frank Mills are charged with two counts of filing false income tax return forms for 2004 and 2005.

If convicted, Lauritz Mills faces a maximum statutory penalty of up to 10 years in prison for the embezzlement charge, and Lauritz and Frank Mills each face a maximum statutory

penalty of up to three years in prison for each of the false income tax return charges.

This case is being investigated by IRS-CID and IRB Criminal Investigation Division.

An indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.