



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney  
Southern District of West Virginia**

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CONTACT: Melvin Smith  
800-659-8726\*(304)345-2200  
Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

**NITRO WOMAN SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING EMPLOYER**

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Kelli Reed, 33, of Nitro, West Virginia, was sentenced to 6 months home confinement and 5 years probation yesterday by United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver Jr. for credit card fraud. Reed previously pleaded guilty in October 2010.

Reed worked as a corporate administrative assistant for a Nitro area business. During 2007-08, Reed used a company credit card issued to the president of the company, for her personal benefit. It was further revealed that on various occasions over the course of a year, the defendant charged \$10,942 in unauthorized purchases. The company suffered approximately \$13,742 in losses as a result of the fraudulent activity. As part of her plea agreement, Reed was ordered to pay \$13,742 in restitution.

This case is part of the ongoing efforts of the United States Attorney's Office to prosecute crimes against small businesses and cases of identity theft. In September 2010, U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin created and launched a comprehensive plan to protect small businesses and nonprofit agencies from fraud and abuse. Goodwin has redoubled efforts to identify, investigate and aggressively prosecute dishonest employees and other criminals who defraud or embezzle from small businesses, thereby potentially leaving the business financially vulnerable.

The Crimes Against Small Business Initiative strives to protect businesses and nonprofit organizations by working in partnership with the business community, along with state and local law enforcement officials, to ensure that occurrences of fraud, embezzlement, scams and other crimes targeting small businesses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The Nitro Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Erik Goes handled the prosecution.

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