



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa Orlando Jacksonville Ocala Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: WILLIAM DANIELS
June 7, 2011 PHONE: (813) 274-6388
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr> FAX: (813) 274-6300

FORMER OSCEOLA COUNTY SUNTRUST BANK BRANCH MANAGER
ARRESTED ON FEDERAL EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces the arrest today of Heather Harmony Espinel (33, Kissimmee) on a charge of embezzlement of federally insured funds by a bank employee. Espinel had been indicted by a federal grand jury on the charge, on June 1, 2011. If convicted, Espinel faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison.

According to information released at her court appearance, from about December 28, 2009, until February 16, 2010, Espinel knowingly embezzled more than \$1,000 in federally insured funds entrusted to the care of SunTrust Bank. At the time of the thefts, Espinel served as a manager for an Osceola County branch of the bank. The total amount of funds taken amounted to at least \$14,985.

After her appearance in federal court today, Espinel was released from custody pending trial. A trial date has been set for August 1, 2011, before the Honorable Gregory A. Presnell, United States District Judge.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.