

For Immediate Release
June 30, 2011

CHAPARRAL WOMAN CONVICTED OF DEFRAUDING UNION

Defendant Fraudulently Converted \$124,756 in Union Funds for Personal Use

LAS CRUCES – Today a federal jury sitting in Las Cruces convicted **Gloria Porter**, 64, of Chaparral, New Mexico, on 105 counts of wire fraud, one count of mail fraud, and one count of aggravated identity theft after a three-day trial. The jury deliberated three hours before returning a guilty verdict on all counts.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the 107-count indictment against Porter was filed on December 20, 2010. Porter made her initial appearance in federal court on January 3, 2011, and was released on her own recognizance. Porter remains on conditions of release pending her sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set. The maximum penalty for each wire and mail fraud offense is 20 years of imprisonment, a \$1 million fine, and a five-year term of supervised release. Porter also faces a mandatory minimum two-year prison sentence on the aggravated identity theft offense.

The evidence at trial established that from, December 20, 2005 through September 2, 2008, Porter, an employee at White Sands Missile Range, executed a scheme to defraud the Army Military Council (“AMC”), a body comprised of local unions representing members of the National Federation of Federal Employees (“NFFE”) who are employed by the United States Army. Porter, who at the time was serving as national vice president for the NFFE, the secretary-treasurer for the AMC, and president of a local union, accessed AMC accounts to fraudulently convert a total of \$124,756 in union funds for her personal use. AMC bank records introduced at trial showed that Porter spent union funds on clothing, beauty and personal care, groceries, electronics, music and books, the home shopping network, and home furnishings. The

bank records also showed that Porter made cash withdrawals and wrote checks to herself from union funds in the amount of \$24,619. To conceal the fraud, Porter forged the signature of the AMC president on a 2006 fiscal disclosure report.

The case was investigated by the United States Department of Labor Office of Labor-Management Standards, the Las Cruces Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Las Cruces Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen Wong and Richard C. Williams.

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