



Department of Justice

United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil
Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/WIW

CONTACT: ELIZABETH ALTMAN

PHONE: (608) 264-5158

TTY: (608) 264-5006

MADISON WOMAN SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING FUNDS FROM WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

MADISON, WIS. -- John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Laura Ewing, 47, Madison, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge James Peterson to three years of probation for embezzling funds from her employer, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA).

As a condition of her probation, Ewing was ordered to spend 10 months on home confinement. She was also ordered to pay \$49,014.32 in restitution. Ewing pleaded guilty to this charge on June 24, 2016.

WCASA receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice through programs provided by the Violence Against Women Act.

While employed by WCASA, Ewing wrote 34 checks out to herself, but in the accounting system she falsely documented that the money was paid to vendors or other individuals. In addition, she forged her supervisor's signature on almost all the checks.

According to WCASA, victims of sexual assault were directly hurt by Ewing's actions because the actions prevented WCASA from providing services to victims and trainings to other service providers.

In sentencing the defendant, Judge Peterson noted that Ewing engaged in sustained acts of dishonesty and was a hypocrite in her actions because she questioned other employees about their spending when she was stealing funds.

The charge against Ewing was the result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

###