



# Department of Justice

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

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

## WESLEY CHAPEL MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew sentenced David A. Smith to five years' imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release for three counts of wire fraud, three counts of mail fraud, and two counts of aggravated identity theft. The defendant is immediately tendering \$402,000 in forfeitures and restitution. In addition, the defendant has agreed to forfeit his Wesley Chapel home.

Smith, age 46, pleaded guilty on February 29, 2008.

According to court documents, Smith was the Facilities Manager for Quest Diagnostics Incorporated's ("Quest Diagnostics") Tampa laboratory and laboratory annex. Starting in 2001, Smith began submitting his expense reports with fraudulent invoices from fake "shell" companies that Smith claimed he had paid on behalf of Quest Diagnostics and for which he sought reimbursement. The fake "shell" companies involved in the scheme were Smith's creations and they were generally little more than a name, a fake address, and fake invoices. For example, the address used by Smith for Environmental Tech was effectively the on ramp to the Tampa Crosstown Expressway at Willow Avenue and TLSmith's address was a Post Office Box opened by Smith. Approval of the fraudulent expense reports submitted by Smith to Quest required a countersignature by one of Smith's supervisors. Smith simply forged the signatures of at least two of his supervisors on many of his expense reports. Over the course of his scheme Smith obtained

\$1,187,379 in payments from his employer. Quest Diagnostics also identified an additional \$122,520 in fraudulent expenses for a total loss of \$1,309,899.

The case was investigated by United States Secret Service and the Tampa Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas N. Palermo.