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Bangor Woman Convicted of Identity Theft, Wire Fraud and Social Security Fraud

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced a jury returned verdicts of guilty on all 9 counts of an indictment charging **Mary L. Landry**, age 43, of Bangor, with wire fraud, social security fraud, fraud in connection with use of a credit card and aggravated identity theft.

During the trial in U.S. District Court at Bangor, evidence showed that defendant Mary Landry submitted credit card applications using personal identifiers of an admiral in the United States Coast Guard. Defendant Landry then made thousands of dollars in credit card charges before the fraud was detected. Witnesses who specialize in fraud detection and operation of the internet-based software which processes credit card applications testified that the on-line applications did not contain the social security number and date of birth claimed to have been submitted by the defendant. The evidence at trial further showed that the defendant had previously worked for companies which had legitimate access to customers' identification information and had surreptitiously obtained the victim's information while so employed.

"This case sends a strong message that stealing the identity of another person and using the internet to engage in credit card fraud will result in prosecution," said United States Attorney Silsby. The U.S. Attorney praised the investigative efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service and the Office of the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration.

William Schenkelberg, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New England Regional Office of the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) in Boston said, "The CGIS will aggressively investigate and prosecute crimes against any Coast Guard personnel, from Seaman to Admiral."

Special Agent-in-Charge Jeff Paula of the Boston Field Division Office said, "The Office of the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration is proud to have been associated with the joint investigation and successful prosecution of Mary Landry. This conviction sends a clear signal which will deter individuals who may engage in identity theft or fraudulently use Social Security Account numbers. The Office of the Inspector General takes seriously all allegations involving SSN misuse and various SSA programs, vigorously investigating and pursuing all such allegations."

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