



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

FORMER UNION OFFICIAL ADMITS EMBEZZLEMENT

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced today that Julie Ann Messick, age 45, of Milford, Delaware, entered a guilty plea to a felony charge of embezzlement from a union before Honorable Joseph J. Farnan, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, in Wilmington. The maximum penalty for the charge is 5 years in jail and \$250,000 in fines. The Defendant is released on bail, and the Court set sentencing for late May 2005.

The Defendant was Treasurer for Local 2001 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, which is based in Milford, Delaware, and represents employees of the Milford Center, 700 Maryville Road, Milford. The Defendant admitted that over a four year period, she embezzled more than \$11,000 by making 116 unauthorized cash withdrawals with the Local's ATM card from its bank accounts. She has already made restitution of \$9,164, and agreed to make restitution of the remainder.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Office of Labor Management Standards. For further information, please call First Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard G. Andrews, who is handling the prosecution.