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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2008

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PRESS RELEASE

**WILMINGTON WOMAN SENTENCED FOR
IDENTITY THEFT AND BANK FRAUD**

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced that Whitney Ann Wilson, age 29, of Wilmington, was sentenced today in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware to 30 months incarceration, plus restitution, on identity theft and bank fraud charges. Wilson has already served an additional nine months imprisonment on separate state charges.

According to statements made during hearings in the case and documents filed in court, during the period from December 2007 through February 2008, Wilson repeatedly stole outgoing mail from residential mailboxes, and obtained personal and business checking account information from that mail. Wilson would use the information, including the victims' names, addresses, and bank account numbers, to produce counterfeit checks which were then cashed at local banks. During the course of her scheme, Wilson stole mail from more than 140 different persons, most of whom were Delaware residents, and created and cashed thousands of dollars in fraudulent checks on bank accounts belonging to more than 20 persons.

U.S. Attorney Connolly praised the work of U.S. Postal Inspector Yvette Thomas in

investigating this matter, as well as the efforts of fraud investigators at Wilmington Trust and WSFS in uncovering the defendant's conduct. Following the sentencing, U.S. Attorney Connolly stated: "This is an important case and we are pleased with the result. Our office will continue to pursue vigorously identity theft schemes, and this sentence should serve as a reminder that identity thieves receive significant prison sentences upon capture."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Seth M. Beausang.

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