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THEFTS MOTIVATED BY REVENGE NET POSTAL EMPLOYEE 30 MONTHS IN JAIL

ANCHORAGE, AK – Acting U.S. Attorney Deborah M. Smith announced today that former Postal Service employee Michael Sargent, 48, of Anchorage, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Anchorage by U.S. District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline to 30 months in prison for theft of public records and theft of property used by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

Sargent was previously found guilty by the Court for stealing postage statements, financial documents provided by bulk mail customers which calculate postage due. Sargent then cleared their mail for processing, and did not make the proper computer entries to transfer funds from bulk mail customer accounts to the United States Postal Service. Sargent then stole and destroyed the postage statements so that the financial loss would not be discovered by the USPS.

In court records, Judge Beistline found that Sargent was angry with the USPS because of perceived injustices and sought to injure the agency. The judge noted the defendant was upset by the USPS overtime policy and the loss of a promotion. He sought to injure the USPS by reducing the monies it received from postal customers, and he wanted to “get his pound of flesh.” His actions “were steeped in anger and a desire for revenge,” Judge Beistline said. The loss inflicted upon the USPS was \$449,265.18. At great time and expense, the USPS has been able to recover a significant portion of the loss amount, but collection efforts are ongoing against several bulk mail customers, according to court records.

When imposing sentence, Judge Beistline stated that he wanted to send a message that it is not acceptable for an unhappy employee to attempt to destroy his company or agency; such serious criminal conduct will be dealt with severely.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General.

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