



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

FORMER HIGH RANKING CDC OFFICIAL SENTENCED ON THEFT CHARGES

Atlanta, GA - DONNA STROUP, 54, of Decatur, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States Magistrate Judge E. Clayton Scofield on her guilty plea to a misdemeanor theft of government funds.

“This is a sad case of a gifted public servant turning her back on her responsibility to be an honest citizen. While Dr. Stroup was serving as a Director for the CDC, she filed claims for more than \$7500 in fraudulent travel reimbursements,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “Although the money stolen is relatively small, the breach of public trust is significant and should not be minimized. We are committed to ensuring that those entrusted with much responsibility within federal government are held accountable if they break the law.”

STROUP was sentenced to 1 year probation, ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$7,516.06, fined \$2,500, and ordered to perform 480 hours of community service within a six month period. STROUP pleaded guilty to the theft charge on May 17, 2006. STROUP paid the full amount of the restitution – \$7,516.06 – in May 2006 when she entered her guilty plea.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: DONNA STROUP had been employed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for several years as the Director of the Coordinating Center for Health Promotion. Her responsibilities included frequent travel to speak at and participate in conferences. Between April 2002 and July 2005, STROUP submitted dozens of travel vouchers that contained fraudulent claims and over 100 altered receipts purporting to support legitimate expenses that, in fact, were not legitimate. Many receipts for non-reimbursable expenses were altered so that the persons reviewing and approving the vouchers would not be able to easily ascertain that fact. Usually, the top and/or bottom of the receipt was torn off to hide the identity of the vendor. Concealed vendors included restaurants, liquor stores, room service, specialty boutiques, and various clothing stores including Filene’s Basement, Hecht’s, and Nordstrom. The altered receipts were falsely described on the internal CDC travel expense sheet as “expenses,” relating to faxes, FedEx or copying. The total amount of the theft was approximately \$7,516.06.

The evidence showed in one instance, after STROUP traveled to Washington, DC on CDC business in February 2005, she submitted a voucher which included an expense described as “Photocopies for AMCHP (Powerpoint Slides)” in the amount of \$106.22. The top and the bottom of the receipt had been removed. STROUP received reimbursement for this amount in March 2005. Later, investigators determined that the receipt was actually associated with a purchase at Filene’s Basement department store in the amount of \$106.22.

This case was investigated by Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

Assistant United States Attorney Charysse L. Alexander prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.