



PRESS RELEASE

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**CROWNPOINT, N.M., WOMAN SENTENCED TO PROBATION FOR
EMBEZZLING MONEY FROM AN INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court in Santa Fe, N.M., Shavna April Bebo, 36, of Crownpoint, N.M., was sentenced to a three-year term of probation for embezzling from an Indian tribal organization, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales. Bebo also was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$38,998.37 to the victim of her criminal conduct.

Bebo was charged on Jan. 26, 2012, in an indictment alleging that, from Oct. 2009 through Aug. 2010, Bebo willfully and knowingly embezzled \$38,998.37 of the funds belonging to the Littlewater Chapter House, a tribal organization in Crownpoint. On June 5, 2012, Bebo pled guilty to the indictment under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

According to the plea agreement, Bebo was employed as an administrative assistant in the business office of the Littlewater Chapter House from Feb. 2, 2008 to Aug. 12, 2010, when she was terminated. Shortly after Bebo's employment was terminated, Littlewater Chapter House officials filed a complaint with the police alleging that Bebo fraudulently had made out checks to herself on the Littlewater Chapter House business account using the officials' signatures, and had cashed the forged checks for her personal gain.

The investigation into the complaint against Bebo revealed that Bebo forged 51 checks totaling approximately \$38,998.37. During an interview in Aug. 2011, Bebo admitted that she began forging and cashing checks on the Littlewater Chapter House business account in 2009, and continued to do so until the Chapter House officials exposed her scheme and terminated her employment.

The case was investigated by the Gallup Resident Office of the FBI, and the Crownpoint Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Safety, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul H. Spiers.

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