



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 27, 2010

Ocean Springs Woman Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement

Gulfport, Miss - Margaret Migues, 52, of Ocean Springs, MS, pled guilty in federal court to embezzlement by a bank employee, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter announced today.

Margaret Migues worked in the banking business for 32 years, beginning with Pascagoula Moss Point Bank in Ocean Springs which was later bought by Hancock Bank. Migues and two of her co-workers began an embezzlement scheme in the early 1980's. They embezzled money from customers' accounts and concealed the embezzlements by preventing account statements from being sent to the customers, and making sure that Migues and her two co-workers were the only ones who dealt with those particular customers at the bank. By the time the scheme was discovered in July, 2009, the bank had already destroyed most of the records from the early years of the embezzlement. The total amount embezzled from October, 1995 to July, 2009 was \$2,386,451.84. It was determined that there were at least 1600 unauthorized transactions and the victims ranged in age from 71 to 102 years old.

Margaret Migues will be sentenced on August 24, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. She faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

###