



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2010
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/>

CONTACT: Melvin Smith
800-659-8726*(304)345-2200
Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

**FORMER COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC WORKER SENTENCED TO PRISON
FOR STEALING \$389,000**

BECKLEY, WV – The former Chief Financial Officer for a non-profit health care clinic which provides medical services to underprivileged patients in McDowell and Wyoming Counties, West Virginia was sentenced today to two years in prison. Judy Hall, 58, of Abington, Virginia, previously pleaded guilty and admitted to stealing \$389,000 from the Tug River Health Care Association (“Tug River”) which receives federal funds.

Beginning in April 2008, while working at Tug River, Hall used a computer and check creation software to make checks out to herself. As part of her scheme, Hall printed the names and forged the signatures of two Tug River executive officers on approximately 66 checks. After forging the checks, Hall deposited them in her bank accounts in Abington.

United States Attorney Booth Goodwin said, “Many people depend on medical services provided by community clinics such as Tug River. Criminals like Ms. Hall who choose to steal from our doctors and clinics, risk the health of everyone in this district and raise the cost of medical services for all of us. Those who jeopardize our health care system and the many small businesses, like Tug River, that deliver essential health care services will be caught and held accountable.”

In addition to her prison sentence, Hall was ordered to pay \$389,000 in restitution.

United States District Judge Irene C. Berger presided over the proceedings. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Erik S. Goes handled the prosecution.

This case is part of the ongoing efforts of the United States Attorney’s Office to prosecute crimes against small businesses and cases of identity theft. In September 2010, U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin created and launched a comprehensive plan to protect small businesses and nonprofit agencies from fraud and abuse. Goodwin has redoubled efforts to identify, investigate and aggressively prosecute dishonest employees and other criminals who defraud or embezzle from small businesses, thereby potentially leaving the business financially vulnerable.

The Crimes Against Small Business Initiative strives to protect businesses and nonprofit organizations by working in partnership with the business community, along with state and local law enforcement officials, to ensure that occurrences of fraud, embezzlement, scams and other crimes targeting small businesses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

###