



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 13, 2012 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Phone: 530 666-8180

Calistoga Woman Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement and Elder Abuse

(Woodland, CA) – January 13, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that today fifty-one year old Denise Ann Conophy of Calistoga pled guilty to embezzlement, elder abuse and tax evasion and admitted that she took in excess of two hundred thousand dollars. Conophy also agreed to the forfeiture of over three hundred thousands dollars in cash and property, previously seized by the District Attorney’s Office during the course of the investigation, to pay restitution to the victim.

Conophy had been hired by the victim to handle her bookkeeping and other financial affairs relating to a Bed and Breakfast that the victim operated in St. Helena. Over the course of her seven year employment, Conophy transferred the victim’s assets to various accounts and used them to pay her personal bills as well as to start up an internet business she was operating. The crimes were discovered when the victim was hospitalized for an extended period of time and family members discovered that the victim’s assets had been depleted. During the course of the investigation the State of California Franchise Tax Board discovered that the defendant had failed to file a state income tax return during an eight year period and had failed to report the stolen funds as income.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated that “due to the efforts of the Woodland Police Department, the California Franchise Tax Board and the District Attorney’s Life and Annuity Fraud Investigative Unit we have recovered over \$300,000 in direct victim restitution for an elderly victim of our community. It is a significant accomplishment when we can recover and return a lifetime worth of savings to an elderly victim in our community.”

Conophy will be sentenced on March 8, 2012 by the Honorable Janet Gaard of the Yolo County Superior Court.

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