

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

FORMER CLERK OF MUNICIPAL COURTS FOR THE CITY OF TROY, MISSOURI IS INDICTED ON ARSON AND EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES

St. Louis, Missouri: The former clerk of Municipal Courts for the City of Troy, Missouri, has been indicted on for the arson and embezzlement of funds of the Municipal Courts, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

Hanaway praised the work on the case by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Troy Missouri Police Department, the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office, the Missouri State Auditor's Office; and Assistant United States Attorney Dean Hoag who is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

CAROL S. GIBSON, 37, of Fair Court, Troy, Missouri, was indicted by a federal grand jury on one felony count of attempted arson on an agency receiving federal financial assistance and one felony count of embezzlement from an organization receiving federal funds. The indictment was returned on August 11, but remained sealed until the defendant turned herself in to authorities today.

If convicted, Gibson faces a penalty range of five to 20 years in prison and/or fines up to \$500,000. Restitution is mandatory.

According to the indictment, Gibson was employed as the Clerk of Municipal Courts for the City of Troy, Missouri. The City of Troy is a local government agency that received federal assistance in excess of \$10,000 for each one-year period beginning July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2005. Gibson, as Clerk of the Municipal courts, handled monies received from traffic court, criminal fines, bond orders and other municipal court-related activities. The indictment alleges that during the period of June 30, 2002, up to September 1, 2004, Gibson embezzled over \$5,000 from the City of Troy.

Instead of depositing cash from municipal court transactions listed above, Gibson allegedly converted it to her own use.

The indictment also alleges that on August 29, 2004, Gibson attempted to destroy municipal court records by starting a fire in the basement of the Troy City Hall and Police Department building at 200 North Main Street in Troy, Missouri.

The charges set forth in an indictment are merely accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.