

## GREGORY D. TOTTEN District Attorney

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Real Estate Agent Charged with Grand Theft and Money Laundering

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today the filing of a criminal complaint against Megan Elizabeth Zucaro (DOB 7/11/70), of Thousand Oaks, charging one felony count of grand theft, one felony count of diversion of construction funds, and one felony count of money laundering. The investigation and prosecution of Zucaro was conducted by the District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit.

Zucaro, a real estate agent licensed by the California Department of Real Estate, is accused of misappropriating approximately \$165,000 in loan proceeds. Zucaro convinced a 90-year-old victim to give her a 50 percent interest in his property in order to obtain a loan to develop the property on his behalf. Zucaro paid nothing in return for her interest in the property, which has an estimated value of \$2 million. After being added on to the property's title, Zucaro used it as collateral for a loan with net proceeds of \$165,000. Within 30 days of receiving the \$165,000, Zucaro allegedly spent these funds on personal expenses unrelated to the victim's property development.

Arraignment is scheduled March 5, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Zucaro is currently in custody with bail set at \$500,000. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of 3 years 8 months in prison.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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