



GREGORY D. TOTTE
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Former Newbury Park Resident Pleads Guilty to Grand Theft and Forgery

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Yvonne L. Martin (DOB 03/13/1951), a former Newbury Park resident currently living in Las Vegas, pled guilty on February 1, 2019, to 15 felony counts of grand theft and forgery. Martin also admitted excessive taking allegations, including the aggravated white-collar crime enhancement at the time of her guilty pleas. The prosecution and conviction of Martin result from a joint investigation conducted by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit and the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation.

Martin was employed as Executive Director of Dougherty Laser Vision (DLV), a multi-office ophthalmology practice based in Camarillo, from 2002 to 2009. After she was terminated on friendly terms, it was discovered Martin embezzled from DLV throughout her eight-year employment by making false expense claims. On hundreds of occasions, Martin claimed she paid DLV bills using her personal credit cards then sought reimbursement from her employer. In support of her expense claims, Martin submitted the vendor invoices she purportedly paid and her credit card statements verifying those payments.

Martin's expense claims were fraudulent: The vendors never provided goods and services to DLV, billed DLV, nor received payment from Martin. Martin forged the vendor invoices she submitted and altered her credit card statements to reflect payments to the vendors she never made. DLV believed Martin's expense claims were legitimate and therefore issued reimbursements to her accounts. Law

enforcement determined during this investigation that during her eight-year employment with DLV, Martin stole over \$1 million from the medical practice.

Beginning in August 2017, Martin's case was delayed for 15 months based on her claim that she suffered from disabling dementia and was not competent to face criminal charges. In November 2018, a jury found Martin competent after receiving evidence disproving that claim, including surreptitious film of her taken throughout 2018 showing her to be fully functional and unimpaired whenever she was not dealing with this criminal case.

Martin remains out of custody pending her sentencing hearing currently scheduled for March 15, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. Martin faces a maximum prison term of eight years based on the guilty pleas and admissions.

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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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