



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Realtor Pleads Guilty to Income Tax Evasion

VENTURA, California –District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Debra Elaine Ashcraft (DOB 11/23/57), of Camarillo, pled guilty to one felony count of failing to file a California tax return. The plea was the result of investigation conducted by the District Attorney’s Real Estate Fraud Unit and the California Franchise Tax Board.

Ashcraft is a real estate agent licensed by the California Department of Real Estate. Investigation revealed Ashcraft structured bank deposits of real estate commissions she earned to avoid triggering mandatory bank reporting requirements in an effort to conceal her income from tax authorities. Ashcraft also failed to file California income tax returns for tax years 2013 through 2017, on income totaling approximately \$1 million. The Franchise Tax Board determined Ashcraft evaded approximately \$73,000 in personal income tax liability.

Sentencing is scheduled March 5, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Ashcraft is expected to be sentenced to 180 days in jail and felony probation for a period of five years. Additionally, Ashcraft will be ordered to pay restitution to the Franchise Tax Board.

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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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