



# ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Simi Valley Bookkeeper Sentenced to Prison for Multi-Victim Embezzlement**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Laura Leonard (DOB 05/01/75), of Simi Valley, was sentenced to serve 3 years 8 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution following her embezzlement convictions in two cases.

Leonard was an office manager for Protek CNC Sales Corporation (Protek), in Simi Valley. In 2019, Protek discovered Leonard had embezzled approximately \$315,000 by double paying herself through company payroll and using company credit cards. Leonard concealed her crimes by disguising the transaction data in Protek's account ledgers. On December 21, 2020, Leonard pled guilty to four counts of grand theft from Protek and admitted an aggravated white-collar crime enhancement.

After Leonard's conviction for embezzling from Protek was publicized, representatives of Sophie, Inc. (Sophie), a non-profit company in Calabasas, reported Leonard to the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) for a similar scheme. SVPD investigated these additional allegations and determined that Leonard, who was a part-time bookkeeper for Sophie, stole approximately \$20,000. On March 29, 2021, Leonard pled guilty to embezzling from Sophie. Leonard's crimes were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit.

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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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