



# ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Former CFO of Simi Valley Company Sentenced to 12 Years Prison for Embezzlement**

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Bill Lee Jones (DOB 10/04/58), formerly of Simi Valley, was sentenced to 12 years prison. On June 22, 2022, Jones pled guilty to 12 counts of grand theft and admitted a special enhancement that his total theft exceeded \$500,000. The case against Jones resulted from investigation conducted by the Simi Valley Police Department and was prosecuted by the District Attorney’s Office Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit. For decades, Jones was employed by Enderle Fuel Injection (Enderle), a small Simi Valley-based racing parts distributor started by Kent Enderle in 1966. Posing as a loyal friend, Jones gained Mr. Enderle’s trust, ultimately positioning himself to manage company finances with no oversight. In 2014, Mr. Enderle became compromised by an illness that eventually claimed his life in 2016. Shortly thereafter, Jones began regularly paying himself unauthorized company checks. This fraud continued for nearly five years, when an audit finally exposed Jones’s fraud. The audit revealed that from 2014 to 2018, Jones embezzled more than \$3.2 million by writing himself 1,879 unauthorized company checks. District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said, “It is gratifying to see Jones held accountable for such an aggravated fraud scheme. This case is a stark reminder that businesses must protect themselves by putting in place systems of checks and balances to prevent trusted insiders from taking advantage of them.”

Prior to reporting Jones’s fraud to law enforcement, Enderle and its civil attorney recovered approximately \$600,000 in stolen funds, leaving \$2,619,424 owed in victim restitution which Jones was ordered to pay when he was sentenced and remanded into custody to begin serving his prison sentence.

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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 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.