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NEWS RELEASE

**BURNSVILLE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY AND IS SENTENCED FOR
SWINDLING HER FORMER EMPLOYER**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Laura Michelle Schwartz, age 37 of Burnsville, pled guilty today to 6 counts of Theft By Swindle and 1 count of Theft (Wrongfully Obtaining Public Assistance) (all felonies) in connection with the theft of over \$183,000 from June 2007 until January 2012 while she was employed by a freight shipping company in Eagan.

Judge David Knutson sentenced Schwartz to 60 days in jail, 60 days on Electronic Home Monitoring, 20 days of sentence to serve and 20 years of probation. Schwartz was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$224,188.97. Judge Knutson stayed the execution of 51 months in prison which Schwartz faces if she violates her probation.

Additional facts pertaining to this case can be found online at www.DakotaCounty.us/Attorney (click on Criminal Complaint Search and/or News Release). When in custody, a mug shot can be viewed at www.DakotaCounty.us/Sheriff (click on Inmate Search).

Backstrom commented: "We are pleased to have convicted Ms. Schwartz for the commission of these significant financial crimes."

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.