



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Ronald C. Machen Jr.  
United States Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FORMER WORKER SENTENCED FOR FRAUD, STEALING CHECKS FROM VULNERABLE PERSONS**

**Washington, D.C.** – Loretia Clay, a former employee of Associated Community Services (ACS), a District of Columbia residential provider for persons with cognitive disabilities was sentenced on criminal fraud charges, United States Attorney Ronald C. Machen, Jr. and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Clay, age 41, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to one count of First Degree Felony Fraud and was sentenced on June 22, 2010, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Robert E. Morin. Judge Morin sentenced Clay to 12 months in prison, suspended all but 4 months, followed by 2 years probation. During the probationary period, Clay may not work with any vulnerable persons, and must pay restitution of more than \$1000. She was also ordered to pay \$100 towards the Victim of Violent Crime Compensation Act fund.

Clay was indicted by Grand Jury on 26 counts of Fraud and Theft for her activities between December 2006 and December 2007. During that period, Clay took 21 checks from vulnerable adults who resided in homes operated by ACS, where she was the House Manager. Clay was responsible for assisting the residents with their financial transactions, including helping them deposit their checks for wages earned at supported work programs in the community. Instead, Clay deposited the vulnerable adults' checks, including 16 from one person, into her own account, and spent the money at the Gap, Macy's, beauty salons, Ticketmaster, and Victoria's Secret. The victims made taped or written statements telling the court how Clay's theft of their money made them feel. Although Clay has paid back all but \$1045 of the more than \$9500 she stole, she deserved punishment according to Judge Morin, who said at sentencing Clay's crimes were "the most egregious fraud and theft that can be committed," because Clay violated the trust of persons she knew were vulnerable.

In announcing the conviction and sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Investigator Shante McGee and Auditor LaShawn Brooks of the Office of the Inspector General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). Mr. Machen and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Miller, who prosecuted the case, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Bieber Kennedy, Director of the MFCU, who assisted.