

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
June 16, 2010  
2 Page (s)

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MAYS LANDING— A former bookkeeper at a Northfield accounting firm entered a guilty plea today to second-degree theft by deception by failure to make required disposition, for writing checks with funds from three clients of the firm totaling over \$107,879, and using it for personal expenses, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Patricia Ahearn, 31, of Egg Harbor City, who had no prior criminal record, will be sentenced in August in the third-degree range in accordance with the plea agreement, and faces three to five years in prison. During her plea today Ahearn admitted that while working for Michael Goloff, a Certified Public Accountant in Northfield from December 2007 to March 2009, she wrote numerous checks and diverted most of the money to her own personal checking account, according to Assistant Prosecutor John Flammer who handled the State's case today.

On May 28, 2009 Goloff and his wife, Carol Goloff, contacted the Prosecutor's Office to report the theft. They advised law enforcement that they fired Ahearn as soon as they suspected her of stealing money from their clients. Ahearn wrote out checks to herself in a total amount of over \$25,000 from the Friends of Dennis Levinson account, and over \$25,000 from the Emma Mary Amato Trust account. She took the remainder of the \$107,879 from the Island Medical Associates account. An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted Ahearn in September, Flammer said.

"At one time the defendant was a trusted employee. She destroyed that trust when she allowed her greed to overcome her duty to safeguard the funds of her firm's clients," Flammer said. "Hopefully, the ramifications for such actions will serve as a deterrent to others who may be contemplating this type of act."

Superior Court Judge Michael A. Donio presided over the plea hearing today. In addition to the prison term, which will be imposed by Superior Court Judge Charles Middlesworth on Aug. 6, Ahearn must make full restitution and was released on her own recognizance today subject to GPS monitoring, to allow for her to work and attempt to pay back some of the funds, Flammer said.

**Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.**