



# Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

## David Leyton, Prosecutor



### FORMER MONTROSE SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT OF \$1.2 MILLION

**November 20, 2007**

**FLINT** -- Prosecutor Leyton said the sentence handed down today against Dana Bacon, the former Montrose Schools payroll supervisor who pleaded guilty last month to embezzling more than \$1 million from the school district, will allow the community to receive restitution and will also punish Bacon for her actions.

Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Geoffrey Neithercut sentenced Bacon to one year in jail, five years probation, and restitution for the money she stole. He noted that this meant Bacon would have to give up her home, property, paycheck, furniture and pension as part of the restitution requirement.

While emphasizing that Bacon pleaded guilty to every single charge he issued against her with no plea bargain or sentence agreements, Prosecutor Leyton said that he understands the frustration some members of the community may feel about Bacon being sentenced to just a year in jail instead of a lengthy prison term.

"\$1.2 million is a lot of money, especially for a school district that had to lay off so many employees in the recent past due to tough economic times. Many people probably feel she deserves to go to prison for a very, very long time," he said, noting that Michigan's sentencing guidelines did not call for that.

"However, Dana Bacon is not getting off scot-free. She will be incarcerated and she will be losing a lot of personal and real property along with other tangible assets," he continued. "Her ability to work instead of serving a long time in prison will allow her to pay back more in restitution. Furthermore, her reputation in the community has been gravely damaged, probably beyond repair, and that is all part of the price she has to pay for her actions."

Along with her felony criminal convictions, Prosecutor Leyton noted that Bacon also faces civil litigation from the school district which could also be used to obtain full restitution from her over the course of many years.

Bacon pleaded guilty to 10 felonies, including embezzlement and using a computer to commit a crime and uttering and publishing. An investigative report from the Montrose Township police showed that her embezzlement activities occurred between 1996 and 2005 with larger and larger amounts of money being taken over time, suggesting that Bacon appeared to become more confident that she could get away with it as time went on.

"I have seen a lot of embezzlement cases as Prosecutor, especially in the last couple of years," noted Prosecutor Leyton. "But the extent of Dana Bacon's actions blows them all away. It's just a very, very sad case for all involved," he said.

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