



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Amtrak Financial Specialist Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement of \$74,000 from Employer

Washington, D.C. – Douglas L. Thompson, a Financial Specialist who has worked for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (“Amtrak”) since 1975, has pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$74,000 from Amtrak, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced today.

Thompson, 60, pleaded guilty earlier today to a one-count Information charging theft from a program receiving federal funds in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola. The case is set for a further status hearing on October 3, 2008, before Judge James Robertson. At sentencing, the defendant faces a possible sentence of up to ten years’ incarceration, a fine of up to \$250,000, and an obligation to make restitution for the amounts embezzled from Amtrak. Under the voluntary Sentencing Guidelines, the defendant faces between 12 and 18 months of incarceration and a fine of between \$3,000 and \$30,000.

According to a Statement of Offense adopted as part of the plea proceedings, Thompson has been employed in Amtrak’s accounting department for 14 years. Beginning in 2006, Thompson was one of the employees primarily responsible for maintenance of the Manual Credit Card System (“MCCS”) – an accounting system that permits Amtrak personnel to give manual refunds to a customer’s credit card. The system is typically used to give a customer’s credit card a refund in situations where traditional swipe-card readers are not available, such as when a customer is refunded for a purchase made from Amtrak while aboard a train. Thompson manipulated the MCCS system so that he could award credits to his personal credit cards without making a corresponding purchase from Amtrak. Thompson applied these false “refunds” to nine different credit cards, each of which were in his own name. Over the course of two years, Thompson gave himself more than 244 bogus “refunds” with an aggregate value of \$74,029.04.

In announcing today’s guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Taylor praised the hard work of the investigative agents involved in this matter, especially Special Agents James Harper, Kyle Sheluga, and Michael Mullen of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Office of the Inspector General. He also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Borchert who is prosecuting this matter.