



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

**08-42**

**SITKA MAN SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON  
FOR THEFT FROM SITKA NATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, March 19, 2008, Geoffrey Marcus Diehl, a resident of Sitka, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to six months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for his conviction of theft of over \$34,000 from a federally funded program.

Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick imposed the sentence on Diehl, age 24.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Andrea (Aunnie) Steward, Diehl was an employee of the Sitka Native Education Program, a federally funded organization, when he forged signatures on checks, totaling over \$34,000, made payable to himself on the organization's account. The theft occurred over the period of a year.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge John W. Sedwick stated that trust in a small community and in the employees of organizations like the Sitka Native Education Program is very important, and that the defendant had undermined that trust.

Mr. Cohen commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Diehl.

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