



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

February 21, 2003

**PINELLAS COUNTY MAN SENTENCED
ON PENSION EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES**

Tampa, FL - On February 20, 2003, United States District Judge Susan C. Bucklew, sentenced JAMES EDWARD STROTHER, age 51, of Clearwater, Florida, to a term of imprisonment of eighteen (18) months for theft of pension benefit plan funds.

STROTHER was found guilty of that offense after a criminal trial that ended on November 15, 2002. The trial jury found that STROTHER unlawfully converted to his own use and embezzled over \$44,000 from the pension benefit plan of Personnel Services of North Carolina, a defunct corporation that he had previously owned and operate in Kernersville, North Carolina. The jury found that in February and March, 1999, STROTHER depleted that sum of money from the employee pension plan of the company and used it for his own purposes. The pension plan had 16 employees participating in it at the time.

In addition to his sentence of imprisonment, STROTHER was ordered to pay restitution of \$44,543.83 to the numerous victims of his embezzlement.

This case was prosecuted by Jay L. Hoffer, Assistant United States Attorney in the Special Prosecutions Section of the Tampa Division . This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Labor.