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PRESS RELEASE

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MARYLAND WOMAN CONVICTED OF STEALING \$33,000 FROM FORMER EMPLOYER

People v. Lamonica Ledesma, 18CR001226

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Maryland resident Lamonica Maria Ledesma, age 49, was convicted by jury yesterday of passing \$33,000 worth of checks she altered, stealing from the business who employed her as a bookkeeper. Following 11 days of trial, the jury found Ledesma guilty of 10 counts of making, passing or using a false or altered check, six counts of making false entries in records, and one count of shoplifting.

Between 2015 and 2016, Ledesma worked as the bookkeeper for an architecture and interior design firm in Monterey County. She was responsible for billing, payroll, and keeping the business's financial records. The evidence presented at trial showed that Ledesma wrote herself 10 unauthorized checks, totaling \$33,000, between June and September 2016. She deposited nine of those checks into her bank account and cashed one of them in person at a bank. Electronic audit records from the business's accounting software program showed that Ledesma altered the financial records following the creation of each check to make it seem as though they were payable to other people. The evidence showed that Ledesma also altered the monthly bank statements mailed to the business to prevent the thefts from being uncovered.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Rafael Vazquez presided over the trial. Ledesma faces a maximum term of 13 years and 10 months in custody when she is sentenced on April 11, 2019. If she is given a prison term, it will be served in Monterey County Jail due to realignment.

The case was investigated by Monterey County Sheriff's Deputy Pete Ramos and Monterey County District Attorney Investigators Jorge Gutierrez and Steven Guidi.