

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AG ANNOUNCES THEFT CONVICTION OF FORMER JUDICIAL ASSISTANT FOR CALHOUN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced the conviction today of a former judicial assistant for the Calhoun County District Court for second-degree theft charges. Melody Warren, 53, of Oxford, pleaded guilty in Calhoun County Circuit Court. She was sentenced to 31 months, which was suspended, placed on probation for three years and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$4,136.

The Attorney General's Office presented evidence to a Calhoun County grand jury in August of 2014, resulting in Warren's indictment. According to information presented by the prosecution at Warren's plea hearing, she acted in her position as judicial assistant to inappropriately take money from people who had cases before the District Court. Rather than turning the money into the Clerk's Office, she kept it.

"It is always a serious crime when someone betrays the public trust to steal taxpayers' money," said Attorney General Strange. "I am pleased that this defendant no longer is in a position to do so, that she has been held to account for her crime, and that she will be required to repay the money that she stole."

Attorney General Strange commended those involved in bringing this case to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorney General Bill Lisenby of his Criminal Trials Division and Special Agents of his Special Prosecutions Division. He thanked the Calhoun County District Attorney's Office for its assistance.

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