

St. Louis Business Journal - April 13, 2007  
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## ST. LOUIS BUSINESS JOURNAL

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### Former St. Luke's employee sentenced for embezzlement

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Tonya Long received a 33-month prison sentence and was ordered to pay \$534,623 in restitution on charges of embezzlement and falsifying tax returns, U.S. Attorney Catherine Hanaway said Thursday.

Long, who was employed as a cashier at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Mo., pleaded guilty **Jan. 31** to one felony count of embezzlement and one felony count of filing a false tax return. She appeared Thursday before U.S. District Judge Jean Hamilton for sentencing.

Long, of the 400 block of Norman Gate in Ballwin, Mo., was employed at St. Luke's Hospital from September 2001 through February 2006. During this period, she allegedly embezzled in excess of \$500,000 from the hospital by stealing cash from the cafeteria dietary department twice a week in amounts between \$600 and \$5,000 per day, according to a release.

During this period of time, Long filed tax returns understating her income. The total tax due from her embezzlement for the tax years 2003, 2004 and 2005 is about \$153,493.

She faced a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and/or fines up to \$1 million on the embezzlement charge, and three years in prison and/or fines up to \$100,000 for filing a false tax return.

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