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**D.A. BROWN: FORMER BOOKKEEPER CHARGED
WITH EMBEZZLING \$63,000 FROM QUEENS HOSPITAL**

Extradited From Georgia; Faces Up to 15 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a bookkeeper formerly employed at the New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens – formerly Booth Memorial Hospital – has been charged with embezzling more than \$63,000 from the hospital during her nine-month employment. The defendant was arrested in Georgia, where she had since moved, and extradited to Queens County to face the charges.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is accused of using her position of trust as a fiduciary agent almost from the first day of her employment to unjustly enrich herself by siphoning off tens of thousands of dollars payable to the hospital. Her alleged conduct represents a betrayal of the confidence that the hospital and medical professionals had in her.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Carla Henderson, 51, of 3799 Apple Way in Marietta, Georgia. She formerly resided at 34-20 24th Street in Astoria, Queens. Henderson has been charged in a 32-count indictment with second-degree grand larceny, first-degree identity theft, first-degree scheme to defraud and first-degree falsifying business records. If convicted, she faces up to 15 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that the defendant was employed as a bookkeeper for New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens (NYHMCQ), located at 56-45 Main Street in Flushing, from September 2003 to June 2004. As a full-time employee, the defendant was responsible for receiving and processing checks payable to the hospital. The defendant left the hospital in June 2004 before the discovery of the theft – which was uncovered during an internal audit of the hospital’s financial records– and thereafter moved to Georgia.

District Attorney Brown said, according to the charges, the defendant stole \$63,381 from the hospital between September 2003 and June 2004 by diverting nine checks to a shell company that she created in the name of New York Health Medical Care Quality – using the same initials as the hospital (NYHMCQ) -- and then transferring the proceeds into her personal account. In order to conceal the theft, she allegedly falsified the hospital’s financial records.

The defendant was taken into custody in the Cobb County Courthouse in Marietta, Georgia, by Investigator Don Gurlly of the Cobb County Sheriff’s Office, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Lynne Voelker, Cobb County District Attorney’s Office, and under the overall supervision of Cobb County District Attorney Pat Head.

Henderson was extradited earlier this week from Georgia and brought to Queens County, where she was arraigned yesterday before Acting Supreme Court Justice James P. Griffin, who set bail at \$70,000 and ordered a return date of May 29, 2007

The investigation and arrest was conducted by Detective Thomas Luberto of the New York City Police Department’s Identity Theft Squad under the supervision of Captain Gregory Antonsen, Squad Commander, and under the overall supervision of Chief of Detectives George F. Brown.

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Senior Assistant District Attorney Neil F. Gitin, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni.

The defendant's return to Queens County was expedited by Senior Assistant District Attorney Alix Kucker of the District Attorney's Extraditions Unit under the supervision of Eugene O'Neill, Bureau Chief, and Floyd Herring, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney James Quinn

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.