OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney

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Joyce E. Dudley
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Brian Cota, Deputy District Attorney
CONTACT (805) 568-2424

*******PRESS RELEASE*******

Re: ***People v. Allyson Maura Cowell, Case No. 1476514***

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Allyson Maura Cowell, age 54, was found guilty of 52 theft related felony charges. These charges included two counts of financial elder abuse, 25 counts of forgery, 24 counts of money laundering, and one count of grand theft. The jury also found true two special allegations that the amount of theft related to the financial elder abuse exceeded $200,000, and that the financial elder abuse, forgery, and money laundering were related felonies that caused a loss of over $500,000 to the victim.

The evidence in this case established that the defendant had stolen, over the course of nine months, $648,000 from a relative by forging the relative's name on checks connected to an investment account, and on paperwork that allowed the defendant to sell back to the Santa Barbara Cemetery a family burial plot for $11,815.00.

In announcing these convictions District Attorney Dudley stated, "Financial crime victims are always extremely disturbed by the actions of a thief who deprives them of their hard earned resources, but financial elder abuse by a family member is often devastating. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office is committed to protecting our most vulnerable of victims and therefore will continue to vigorously prosecute those that victimize our elderly."

Sentencing will be April 14, 2017 in Department 6 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court, Judge Pauline Maxwell presiding. The defendant is facing a maximum of 28 years in state prison.

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