

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney

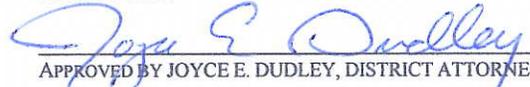


DA 07-56

RELEASE NUMBER

August 1, 2011

RELEASE DATE

  
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Jerry N. Lulejian, Chief Deputy District Attorney  
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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

August 1, 2011

**Re: *The People of the State of California v. Earl Graham Ward, III***  
**Prosecutor: Chief Deputy District Attorney Jerry N. Lulejian**  
**Investigator: D.A. Real Estate Fraud Investigator Jennifer Glimp**

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Earl Graham Ward, III, pled guilty to felony grand theft charges in connection with his felony case involving seventeen counts of theft by embezzlement in connection with Ward's property management business.

Earl Ward, doing business as Award Properties, operated a local Santa Maria property management service. The seventeen landlord victims in this case contracted with Earl Ward to manage their rental properties. Mr. Ward was required to collect rents, hold them in trust, and pay them to the landlord victims. Trust funds held by Ward were embezzled in a total amount in excess of \$127,000 from all of the victims.

During the preliminary hearing, Earl Ward pled guilty to felony grand theft charges under a plea bargain in which Mr. Ward will be sentenced to State Prison for 16 months. The sentencing has been continued until October 6th in Department 6 of the Santa Maria Division of the Superior Court.

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