State of South Carolina Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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GREENVILLE ATTORNEY SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS FOR STEALING OVER \$400,000.00 FROM TRUST ACCOUNT

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins reports that Dayatra Baker-White plead guilty to Breach of Trust with Fraudulent Intent (S.C. Code 16-13-230) and a violation of the Computer Crime Act (S.C. Code 16-16-20) on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. The Honorable Judge Ned Miller presided over the plea and sentenced the Defendant to ten years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, suspended upon the service of seven years incarceration on the Breach of Trust charge followed by five years of probation. Judge Miller also sentenced Ms. Baker-White to five years incarceration on the Computer Crime Act charge, to be served consecutive to the Breach of Trust sentence.

In September of 2006, Dr. William Bagwell, a civil rights activist, died leaving the Defendant as Trustee of his estate. Under the terms of Mr. Bagwell's Last Will and Testament, the Defendant was to open an Estate trust account and distribute the Estate assets to several of the minority women Dr. Bagwell assisted in their fight for the right to attend all-white educational institutions. From September of 2006 until March 2009, Ms. Baker White routinely withdrew money from the estate for her own personal use. The Estate, initially valued at \$430,663.92, was reduced to a mere \$14.35 before the Defendant's crimes were discovered.

During this time period, the Defendant used a personal computer to electronically transfer money from the Bagwell trust account into one of several personal bank accounts. She also distributed the Trust money to members of her family, made deposits into her personal investment trading account, and paid her personal mortgage and credit card bills.

As a result of the investigation, law enforcement determined that the Defendant had no other significant source of income other than the funds obtained from the Bagwell trust.