

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF FORMER JUDICIAL ASSISTANT FOR CALHOUN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest today of a former judicial assistant for the Calhoun County District Court for felony ethics and theft charges. Melody Warren, 52, of Oxford, surrendered to the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department and was released on bond.

Attorney General Strange's Special Prosecutions Division presented evidence to a Calhoun County grand jury on August 28, resulting in Warren's indictment*. Specifically, the indictment charges Warren with three counts:

- use of her official position as a public employee for personal gain of money or checks for herself, a family member or business with which she was associated;
- first-degree theft of property by exerting unauthorized control over money or checks valued at more than \$2,500; and
- first-degree theft of property by obtaining by deception control over money or checks valued at more than \$2,500.

No further information about the investigation or about Warren's alleged crimes other than that stated in the indictment may be released at this time.

If convicted, Warren faces a penalty of up to 20 years and a fine of up to \$30,000 for each count, all of which are class B felonies.

**An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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