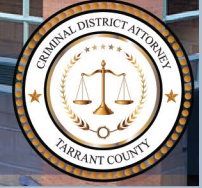


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Sharen Wilson CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Contact: Samantha Jordan, Communications Officer

O: 817.884.3120, C: 817.914.4600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, April 18, 2019

## BOOKKEEPER RECEIVES 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RODEO SKIMMING SCHEME

(Fort Worth, TX) – D'Ann Elizabeth Wagner was sentenced to 15 years in prison late yesterday after pleading guilty to the charge of Theft of Property Over \$200,000. After an extensive investigation by our White Collar team, Wagner admitted stealing \$1.3M from the Stockyards Rodeo over a three year period.

Wagner, who was a bookkeeper for the Rodeo, utilized a PayPal account on the organization's website to commit this theft. The PayPal account, used for online domestic and international ticket sales, was set up by Wagner, who then linked her own personal information to the account. A debit card was issued by PayPal to manage the money received, which Wagner then used for her personal use.

In all, investigators pinpointed more than 11,000 individual transactions which took place between January 2014 and March 2017, amounting to more than \$1.3M. Wagner used the money to go on numerous vacations, gamble at WinStar, and buy two Harley-Davidson motorcycles, among other purchases.

*"This defendant stole more than 6x the minimum threshold for this first-degree felony charge," said prosecutor Brooke Panuthos. "She had 11,000 chances to stop her criminal behavior and stop stealing from employers who trusted her. She showed no conscience and no remorse for her actions."*

*"If you've been a victim of theft, you should always report it," said Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson. "White collar criminals are more sophisticated than ever, and there should not be any embarrassment if it happens to you. Our White Collar team is in place because of how prolific these crimes have become."*

Wagner made an open plea to Judge George Gallagher, and was sentenced to 15 years in prison for her crimes.

*"White collar criminals need to be on alert," said Panuthos. "We won't tolerate these crimes in Tarrant County. This case represents the expertise and dedication of our White Collar prosecution team, and we will continue to aggressively pursue justice for Tarrant County residents who have been financially victimized."*

## END ##