

To: Bob Long  
From: John McCormack

Dear Bob:

Sharon Cutter changed her plea and was sentenced today.  
Congratulations for your determined and wonderful work on this assignment, Bob. The conviction couldn't have occurred without your brilliant insight and professionalism.

Best Regards,  
John McCormack  
Sloane and Walsh, LLP

St. Ann's ex-CFO gets jail in thefts » EagleTribune.com, North Andover, MA

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## EagleTribune.com, North Andover, MA

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### St. Ann's ex-CFO gets jail in thefts

#### Sharon Cutter spent \$183K on luxury items

By Jill Harmacinski  
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Cutter, 51, of 34 Piedmont St., yesterday pleaded guilty to two counts of larceny by embezzlement and was sentenced by Judge David Lowy to 2 1/2 years in jail, with nine months to be served and the balance suspended for five years.

During the plea hearing, Cutter admitted that from July 1, 2006, to Oct. 31, 2011, she used petty cash and credit cards belonging to St. Ann's School at 100A Haverhill St. to purchase items for herself, such as dinners out and luxury purchases, including a shopping trip to the Coach purse outlet in Tilton, N.H.

She also agreed she purchased items for her boyfriend's Methuen restaurant, Prelude, with St. Ann's funds.

Prelude is owned by Thomas Grella, who accompanied Cutter to court yesterday.

"What the government said happened, is that what happened?" Lowy asked Cutter.

"Yes," she replied.

"You are pleading guilty because you are guilty and for no other reason?" Lowy continued.

"Yes," Cutter answered.

Lowy also sentenced Cutter to five years probation following her release from jail. Incarcerated women in Massachusetts are housed at a state prison, MCI Framingham.

While on probation, Cutter must make monthly payments in restitution for the \$183,000.

Additionally, Lowy ordered Cutter to send a letter of apology to St. Ann's School and participate in a community service program known as "Life Through Literature," a measure the judge described as "restorative justice."

Prosecutor Michael Patten asked Lowy to impose an 18-month jail sentence, noting St. Ann's Home "is an institution that provides significant services to people in need, including children and adults." St. Ann's is a residential treatment center, a related agency of the Boston Archdiocese.

An investigation and subsequent audit began there after an employee reported financial improprieties to a board member in October 2011.

But Cutter's defense attorney, James Krasnoo, argued for less jail time, noting his client has not prior criminal record and was pleading guilty to a non-violent crime. He also said Cutter has "significant health problems," including diabetes, that require her to take daily medications.

The maximum penalty for larceny by embezzlement is five years in state prison.

According to court documents, Cutter admitted she used St. Ann's funds to purchase items for Grella's restaurant, including, stainless steel coffee creamers and sugar caddies, water pitchers and other kitchen equipment, plus a laptop computer.

She said she reimbursed St. Ann's for the \$2,000 she spent. But she never informed any school officials of the reimbursements, according to court papers.

Cutter was fired from St. Ann's in December 2011.

Follow staff reporter Jill Harmacinski on Twitter @EagleTribJill.