



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Rebecca A. Gregory  
Eastern District of Texas

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## **FORMER UNION OFFICIAL SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING FUNDS**

TEXARKANA, TX – U.S. Attorney Rebecca A. Gregory announced today that a former official with Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 237 has been sentenced for embezzling funds in the Eastern District of Texas.

**WILLIAM “WILLIE” BROWN**, 53 of Atlanta, Texas pleaded guilty on Aug. 26, 2008, to embezzling from a labor union and was sentenced to 5 years probation today by U.S. District Judge David Folsom. Brown was also ordered to pay \$4,942.00 in restitution to Local 237.

According to information presented in court, from November 1997 through September 2002, Brown devised a scheme to embezzle funds from the Local Union # 237, located in Texarkana, Texas while serving as the Business Manager/Financial Secretary and Apprentice Coordinator. The funds were stolen from the Union’s Apprenticeship and Training Fund and the General Fund. Brown had financial control and oversight of the training funds checkbook and petty cash fund, among others. The Apprenticeship and Training Fund is a health and welfare plan protected under Title 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. Brown was indicted by a federal grand jury on April 3, 2007.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Inspector General and the Office of Labor Management Services and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise O. Simpson.

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