

Printed from THE DAILY JOURNAL, dtd. 07/07/2011

Dental bookkeeper pleads not guilty to embezzling

July 07, 2011, 03:50 AM Daily Journal Staff Report



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A bookkeeper pleaded not guilty to stealing \$70,000 from a Redwood City dentist shortly after being fired by another dentist for embezzlement.

Between March 2009 and August 2010, Jasmine Delafuente, 31, took the cash paid by patients and deleted proof of payment from office records, prosecutors said.

Just prior to working for the office, Delafuente had been fired in February 2009 for stealing \$6,793 through the same means. Delafuente was prosecuted and convicted of felony embezzlement in August 2010, settling a case that had been pending in court through most of the time she was working for her second alleged victim.

"It's egregious. Literally, as the case was in court she got a new job and started the same thing," said District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

She was sentenced to 60 days jail and felony probation for the first case.

After pleading not guilty yesterday in the new case, she was scheduled for jury trial Jan. 30, 2012.

She remains in custody in lieu of \$100,000 bail and a no-bail probation violation hold.