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Office of the District Attorney  
Nineteenth Judicial District

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Date: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015  
Contact: Kimberly Corban Weeks • [kweeks@co.weld.co.us](mailto:kweeks@co.weld.co.us) • 970.356.4010 ext. 4702  
Re: Former Oil & Gas Employee Sentenced on COCCA Charges

Greeley, CO –On Tuesday, October 22nd, The Honorable Judge Marcelo Kopcow sentenced Leila Bennett (DOB 07/03/1976) to ten years in the Colorado Department of Corrections. Bennett plead guilty to one count of Violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act, a class two felony.

Whiting Petroleum and Oil employed Bennett through a third-party contractor as a Procurement and Materials Supervisor at its Redtail Pipeline site near Raymer, Colorado. Between October, 2014 and February, 2015, Bennett acted as Whiting's agent at the Redtail site, and stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from the company by creating fake invoices on behalf of her own company, A & H Services, LLC. She then submitted those invoices for payment through the company's invoice payment software. Bennett utilized some of the stolen funds to purchase land in Nebraska, and oil field services equipment. Bennett also employed an individual in Grand Junction, Colorado to pose as the office for A & H Services, LLC, which she previously incorporated with the Colorado Secretary of State. Whiting employees--who were not initially aware of Bennett's connection to A & H Services, LLC-- grew suspicious of Bennett's invoices when they appeared substantially similar to legitimate invoices submitted by another vendor.

Weld County District Attorney's Office Investigator Traci Dowd led the probe in to Bennett's criminal actions and the case was subsequently prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sarah McCutcheon. As part of Bennett's sentence, she will pay restitution to Whiting in an amount to be determined by Judge Kopcow at a later date.

### WCDA ###

*The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6*