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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: August 1, 2012  
Re: Conviction for Foreclosure Scam

**For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that on June 5, 2012, Monica Whitten was convicted of two felony counts of Offering to Record or Recording False Documents. Deputy District Attorney Brad Nix prosecuted the case for the People.

In 2009, Whitten recorded false documents relating to her parents' mortgage. These documents were intended to delay a pending foreclosure. Whitten's case was delayed due to her fleeing the country. She was arrested when she flew into Atlanta on her return to the United States.

The documents that Ms. Whitten recorded are an example of a common real estate fraud scheme in which defendants pay money for forms that they believe will slow down or stop a foreclosure sale and then they record them at the Clerk/Recorder's Office. The Real Estate industry is now familiar with these types of fraudulent documents and is on the look-out for them. The public is encouraged to avoid becoming involved in these schemes.

Judge Nancy Ashley sentenced Whitten to one year in the county jail, placed her on three years of probation, and ordered her to pay restitution.

If you believe you have learned of a potential Real Estate Fraud scheme, please contact the District Attorney's Office and ask for a complaint form. The form can also be found on the District Attorney's website.