

Summary: Former Tribal Official Convicted of Bank Fraud

Report Date: January 21, 2022

Report Number: 16-0039

The OIG investigated allegations that Brandy Cogburn, the former Fiscal Director for Table Bluff Wiyot Tribe in California, embezzled tribal funds by making personal purchases using the Tribe's bank account.

We found that Cogburn embezzled \$95,001 in tribal funds by making personal purchases.

On October 21, 2020, Cogburn pleaded guilty to six counts in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344, bank fraud, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and was sentenced to 21 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release. She was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$95,001 to the Tribe; she was also ordered to pay a \$600 assessment to the District Court.

Based on Cogburn's conviction, the OIG's Administrative Remedies Division recommended that Cogburn be debarred from working with the Federal Government. Based on that recommendation, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Suspending and Debarring Official debarred Cogburn on November 4, 2021, from acquiring any Federal awards until October 8, 2022.

This is a summary of a report we provided to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Director for any action deemed appropriate.

