

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OF THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA SITTING IN AN FOR LINCOLN COUNTY

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
CRAIG S. KEY,)
DOB: 06-19-65)
SSN: ██████████,)
Defendant.)

Case No. _____

INFORMATION

E. SCOTT PRUITT, Attorney General of Oklahoma, in the name and by the authority of, and on behalf of the State of Oklahoma, gives information that in said County of Lincoln in the State of Oklahoma, **CRAIG S. KEY**, did then and there unlawfully, willfully, knowingly and wrongfully commit the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1: DELIVERY OF A FORGED NOTE OR INSTRUMENT

On and before the 14th day of June, 2012, the crime of **Delivery of a Forged Note or Instrument** was committed in Lincoln County, Oklahoma, by the Defendant **Craig S. Key**. That is to say, on and before said date, Defendant **Craig S. Key** was an attorney retained to represent Judy Branch in resolving Ms. Branch's personal injury claim arising from an automobile accident which occurred on September 20, 2011. A material requirement of the scope of this representation required that the Defendant, **Craig S. Key**, pay medical costs of treatment incurred by Ms. Branch as a result of the aforementioned accident. Through the 14th day of June, 2012, Ms. Branch incurred medical expenses in the amounts of \$8,391.28 at the Accident Injury Care Center, and \$24,030.00 at the Oklahoma Interventional Pain Management and/or Dr. Scott Mitchell, none of which has been

paid to date. At this time, the Defendant **Craig S. Key** maintained his IOLTA Attorney Trust Account with the First Bank of Chandler, Account Number 143477. The only signatory on this IOLTA Attorney Trust Account for purposes of signing checks and making deposits and/or transfers was **Craig S. Key**. The Defendant **Craig S. Key** maintained exclusive possession and control of the checkbook and deposit slips of the aforesaid IOLTA Attorney Trust Account. The final resolution of the matter resulted in Allstate Insurance Company issuing Check Number 141062234 on June 11, 2012 at the Bank of America, Atlanta, GA in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) and made out to "Judy Branch and Attorney(s) Craig S. Key." On June 14, 2012, the Allstate Insurance Company Check Number 141062234 in the amount of Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) was deposited into the IOLTA Attorney Trust Account Number 143477. On the back of the Allstate Insurance Company Check Number 141062234 were signature endorsements of "Judy Branch and CS Key." Judy Branch has denied signing this endorsement signature and has denied giving any permission to anyone to do so on her behalf. The Defendant **Craig S. Key** knowingly delivered and uttered for deposit Allstate Insurance Company Check Number 141062234 in the amount of Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) to his aforementioned IOLTA Attorney Trust Account Number 143477 with the knowledge that it contained the false signature of Judy Branch and with the knowledge that said check was false, with the intent to defraud Allstate Insurance Company, Accident Injury Care Center and Oklahoma Interventional Pain Management and/or Dr. Scott Mitchell. All of said acts being contrary to the provisions of Sections 1577 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes and against the Peace and Dignity of the State of Oklahoma.

COUNT 2: EMBEZZLEMENT

On and before the 14th day June, 2012, through the 30th day of November, 2012, the crime of **Embezzlement** was committed in Lincoln County, Oklahoma, by the Defendant **Craig S. Key**.

That is to say, on and before said dates, Defendant **Craig S. Key** was an attorney retained to represent Judy Branch in resolving Ms. Branch's personal injury claim arising from an automobile accident which occurred on September 20, 2011. This representation required the Defendant **Craig S. Key** to deposit settlement proceeds into his IOLTA Attorney Trust Account and to pay medical providers for medical treatment of Judy Branch and to pay the client Judy Branch. Through the 14th day of June, 2012, Ms. Branch incurred medical expenses in the amounts of \$8,391.28 at the Accident Injury Care Center and \$24,030.00 at the Oklahoma Interventional Pain Management and/or Dr. Scott Mitchell, none of which has been paid to date. At this time, the Defendant **Craig S. Key**, maintained his IOLTA Attorney Trust Account with the First Bank of Chandler, Account Number 143477. The only signatory on this IOLTA Attorney Trust Account for purposes of signing checks and making deposits and/or transfers was **Craig S. Key**. The Defendant **Craig S. Key** maintained exclusive possession and control of the checkbook and deposit slips of the aforesaid IOLTA Attorney Trust Account. The final resolution of the matter resulted in Allstate Insurance Company issuing Check Number 141062234 on June 11, 2012 at the Bank of America, Atlanta, GA in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) and made out to "Judy Branch and Attorney(s) Craig S. Key." On June 14, 2012, the Allstate Insurance Company Check Number 141062234 in the amount of Forty Thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) was deposited into the IOLTA Attorney Trust Account Number 143477. On the back of the Allstate Insurance Company Check Number 141062234 contained signature endorsements of "Judy Branch and CS Key." Judy Branch has denied signing this endorsement signature and has denied giving any permission to anyone to do so on her behalf. The Defendant **Craig S. Key** knowingly delivered and uttered for deposit Allstate Insurance Company Check Number 141062234 in the amount of Forty thousand dollars

(\$40,000.00) to his aforementioned IOLTA Attorney Trust Account Number 143477 with the knowledge that it contained the false signature of Judy Branch and with the knowledge that said check was false, with the intent to defraud Allstate Insurance Company, Accident Injury Care Center and Oklahoma Interventional Pain Management and/or Dr. Scott Mitchell. Judy Branch received \$8,578.72 from the aforementioned IOLTA Attorney Trust Account Number 143477. The aforementioned IOLTA Attorney Trust Account Number 143477 was closed on November 30, 2012 with a negative balance of \$5,482.24. The Defendant **Craig S. Key** knowingly, fraudulently appropriated to a use or purpose not intended or authorized in the course of his legal representation of Judy Branch an amount in excess of Thirty-One Thousand and Four-Hundred-Twenty-One Dollars and 28/100 of these monies, where these monies had been entrusted to the Defendant **Craig S. Key** for a specific purpose, use, and/or disposition, to wit: to pay the medical providers who had provided medical treatment to Judy Branch, but were instead used by the Defendant, **Craig S. Key** for other purposes. All of said acts being contrary to the provisions of Section 1451 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes and against the Peace and Dignity of the State of Oklahoma.

Penalties:

Delivery of a Forged Note or Instrument. By imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for a period not exceeding seven (7) years.

Embezzlement. By imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for a period not exceeding five years and a fine of up to five-thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

By: 
VINCENT ANTONIOLI, OBA #15670

Assistant Attorney General
313 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 522-3405

I have examined the facts in this case and recommend that a warrant do issue.

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

By: Vincent Antonoli
VINCENT ANTONIOLI
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

WITNESSES ENDORSED FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

David Driscoll, Investigator
Office of the Attorney General
313 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Debbie Ross, Investigator
Office of the Attorney General
313 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Judy Branch
341439 East 800
Road
Tryon, OK 74875

Evelyon Beaman
1309 East 10th Street
Shawnee, OK 74801

Kurtis Newby
720 Turner Road
Chandler, OK 74834

Jennifer Savage
3233 NW 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Shawna Cruz
3601 NW 138th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73134

Betty Makintubee
902 Marvel
Chandler, OK 74834

Court Clerk of Oklahoma County

Custodian of Records
Allstate Insurance Company