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For Immediate Release

Contact: [Steve Walker](#), (619) 531-3890
[Tanya Sierra](#), (619) 531-3315
En Español [Jesse Navarro](#), (619) 531-3053

Former Amtrak Employee Convicted of Insurance Fraud, Fails to Appear for Verdict

Judge Issues No Bail Bench Warrant for Wanda Lee Ann Podgurski

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie Dumanis](#) today announced that a jury convicted a former Amtrak employee, Wanda Lee Ann Podgurski, 60, of 29 felony counts including insurance fraud, perjury, grand theft from Amtrak Railroad Retirement Board and tax evasion after a two-month jury trial. The charges also included white collar enhancements involving taking more than \$500,000.

A no bail bench warrant was issued for Podgurski after she failed to appear in court for the verdict today. Anyone with information of her whereabouts, please call the U.S. Marshal Service at 619-557-6620. She was last living in the Manhattan Beach area of Los Angeles County.

“Insurance fraud costs U.S. Consumers more than \$80 billion a year,” DA Dumanis said. “This defendant’s flagrant disregard for the law and her employer increase costs for everyone. Deputy District Attorney Carol Buck did an excellent job presenting the facts of the case to the jury.”

The defendant claimed she slipped and fell at home in August 2006 which caused her to be so severely disabled that she required an in-home caregiver to assist her with daily living. During the time she was allegedly disabled, Podgurski took several vacations including a 16-day tour to China in 2008 with her boyfriend. She also travelled to Dominican Republic, New York, Seattle, Boston, Fort Lauderdale and took road trips to Key West, Eureka, the Berkshires and other destinations.

More than seven insurance carriers and a government agency were victims of the defendant's disability and homeowner scams. During the trial, about 70 witnesses testified including doctors, lawyers, insurance company investigators and contractors.

Initially, Podgurski posted \$500,000 property bond and was out of custody during the two-month trial. She is facing 33 years in prison.

