

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

October 24, 2011

Trial to start tomorrow for alleged grand larceny

Opening statements are scheduled for tomorrow in Suffolk County court in the trial of a former town justice and her husband.

Katherine Pope, the former Shelter Island Justice from 1998 to 2002, and her husband Wayne, a handyman, are alleged to have stolen more than one million dollars over a four year period from an 89 year old woman suffering from dementia.

Ms. Pope is charged with grand larceny in the first degree and two counts of identity theft in the first degree. The ID theft charges are related to a liquidation of the victim's stocks, allegedly by Katharine Pope, in telephone transactions in 2006.

Wayne Pope allegedly obtained Power of Attorney from the victim while he worked for her as a handyman and used the Power of Attorney to write checks to benefit himself.

Mr. Pope worked occasionally as a handyman in the Watermill home of the victim, who died on July 4, 2009 at the age of 89.

Judge James Hudson will preside at trial. Judge Hudson will call the calendar at 9:30 am.

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SCDA COMMUNICATIONS

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Defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.