



# County IT Officer Accused of Embezzling Funds

## October 26, 2017 by Jamie Ward

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Stephen T. Decatur, 58, of 12477 Heath Road in Munson Township, was charged with having an unlawful interest in a public contract, a fourth-degree felony.

The dollar amount is believed to be in excess of \$250,000, according to court records.

He remained in jail on Thursday until his arraignment 10 a.m. Friday in Chardon Municipal Court.

In a complaint, Decatur, acting as a public official, made payments to a fictitious company, owned and operated by Stephanie E. Stewart, his daughter.

From Nov. 2016 to Sept. 28, 2017 "Decatur and Auditor Frank Gliha have authorized the payment of \$259,700.00 to SMCS Tech for Geauga County Automated Data Processing service without contracts or service agreements."

It also states that "SMCS Tech issued cashier's checks to Stephen Decatur that were deposited into his personal account as recently as July 29, 2017."

Decatur, whose employment was terminated Thursday morning, had worked for Geauga County for 12 years, according to his LinkedIn page, working in the Automatic Data Process Center, which includes running the county's website ([www.co.geauga.oh.us](http://www.co.geauga.oh.us)).

The Data Processing Center is part of Geauga County Auditor Frank Gliha's Office. According to its website, the Data Processing Center automates county functions, like accounting, payroll, water bills and personal property taxes, among others.

Decatur's email address is listed as the contact for the Data Processing Center.

The ADP board, made up of Geauga County elected officials, called an emergency meeting Thursday at 10 a.m. to address the issue.

Gauga County Prosecutor Jim Flaiz is a member of the ADP board and said steps have been taken to secure the county's informational systems as the investigation continues. Flaiz had no further comment on the pending case.

Gauga County employees were emailed Thursday afternoon by Allen Keener, senior systems administrator for the ADP Department of Information Technology.

"Please change your Windows password immediately and do not use your current password for the new password," read the email.

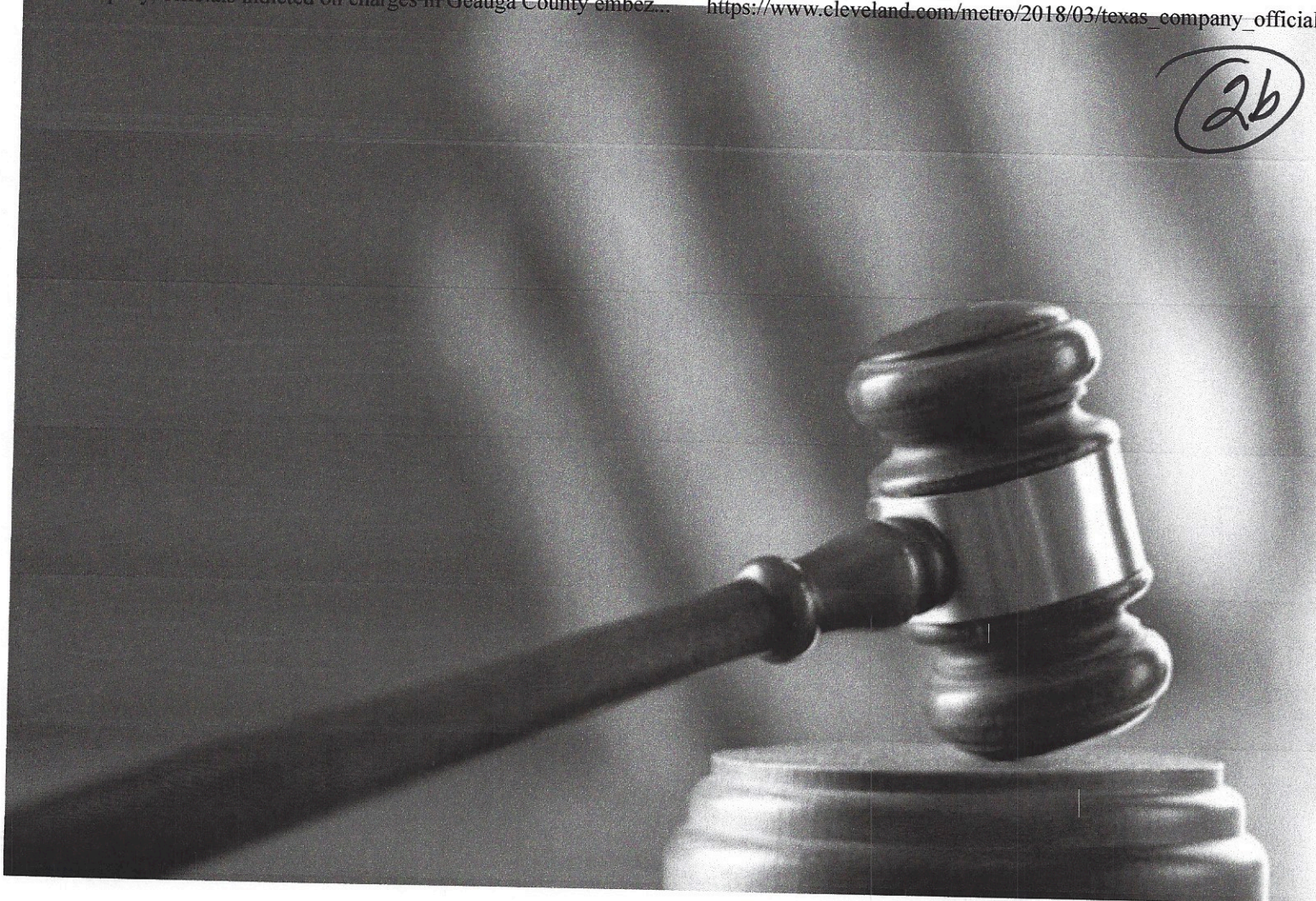
Decatur has had financial trouble in the past 10 years, according to Geauga County court records. He has been sued four times by creditors to recover money.

In all four cases, from 2007 to 2011, judgments were ruled against Decatur for a total amount of more than \$15,000, with the largest being a \$6,135 lawsuit by CitiBank in 2008.

Decatur listed employment with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2016, but that part of his resume was made up, a member of the ADP board said.



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Two Texas men and their company were indicted on charges accusing them of embezzling over a \$1 million in a scheme in Geauga County.(cleveland.com file photo)

By Justin Madden, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- A Geauga County grand jury indicted two Texas high-ranking officials and their technology company Wednesday related to a corruption scheme orchestrated by the county's former chief technology officer and his daughter, records show.

Eugene Joseph Krus Jr., and William E. Kelly Jr., both of Woodlands, Texas, were indicted on charges of complicity to commit aggravated theft of \$1.5 million or more, complicity to commit having an unlawful interest in a public contract, and complicity to commit theft in office, according to documents filed in Geauga County Common Pleas Court.

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The indictment also charges ITERSource Corp., a technology firm, with the same offenses as Krus and Kelly. Krus is the company's CEO and Kelly is the vice president, court records show.

Wednesday's indictments are part of an investigation into former Geauga County IT director Stephen T. Decatur and his daughter, Stephanie E. Stewart, who are accused of stealing more than \$1.8 million in public funds.

Decatur authorized payments from Geauga County to SMCS Tech, a Fairlawn company owned and operated by Stewart and a second vendor from 2010 to 2017. The companies sent cashier's checks to Decatur, who put the money into his personal account, court records show.

The 59-year-old Decatur and Stewart, 35, face a bevy of charges related to the incident.

During an investigation into Decatur, authorities discovered he previously worked for ITERSource before being hired by Geauga County nearly 13 years ago, Geauga County Prosecutor James Flaiz says in a news release.

Decatur approached ITERSource in 2009 to provide technical services to the county, and a deal was made to bill Geauga County, keep a portion of the money and use Stewart's business as a subcontractor, the release says.

Krus and Kelly could not be reached Thursday night.

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