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**February 9, 2021**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Approved by JAK  
Press Release # 21-06**

**Re: Major Worker's Compensation Fraud Filing and Arraignment: Ava McLean: BF184135A**

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced today the filing and arraignment of a major felony case alleging 24 felony counts related to alleged worker's compensation fraud.

On February 8, 2021, Ava McLean voluntarily appeared in court to surrender on an arrest warrant issued after the filing of the felony charges in case BF184135A. At the arraignment, McLean's bail was set at \$75,000, and her release on bail conditioned upon electronic monitoring and other precautions to ensure attendance at future proceedings.

The 24 felony charges include allegations of worker's compensation fraud, insurance fraud, concealing material facts in making claims, misrepresentation, and producing false documents. The combined losses to two alleged victims of the insurance fraud exceeds \$170,000.

The charges relate to McLean's time employed as a nurse assistant at the Bakersfield Heart Hospital, and injuries McLean asserted had occurred during the course of that employment. Investigation conducted by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation revealed a complete history for McLean that exposed the claims about the source of the injury to be fraudulent as well as the considerable efforts taken by McLean on multiple occasions to hide and present false information about the true source of her claimed workplace injury.

McLean was arraigned on the 24-count complaint on February 8, 2021, and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for March 12, 2021. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy DA Kate Zimmermann.