**For Immediate Release**

**February 28, 2019**

**Fairbanks Man to be Sentenced for Embezzlement**

*McGraw to be sentenced for embezzling more than $300,000 from Native nonprofit*

 ***Anchorage & Fairbanks—Feb. 28, 2019—***David M. McGraw will be sentenced Friday, March 1, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. for the crimes of embezzlement and tax evasion. Originally charged with seven counts which included embezzlement, money laundering, and falsifying tax returns, McGraw negotiated a plea agreement which drops four of the original charges. The hearing will be at the Fairbanks Federal Courthouse, 222 W. 7th St., third floor. The hearing will be attended by representatives from the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), including members of its board of directors, elder advisors, and Kelly Donnelly, its Alaska Executive Director.

McGraw has pled guilty to embezzling funds from the YRITWC between 2010 and 2014 while he was employed as the chief financial officer, using those funds to buys guns, pay for online pornography, and lease a plane from a family member. Ms. Donnelly notes, “Embezzlement from the YRITWC, a Native-led organization, is especially damaging as it comes at the expense of important tribal environmental programs intended to benefit public and environmental health in tribal communities from the Bering Sea coast to the headwaters of the Yukon River in British Columbia. His crimes have cost the YRITWC not only the stolen funds, but also more than $2.2 million in additional expenses and lost funding opportunities.”

Members of the press are welcome to attend the hearing, however, no photographs or recording devices will be allowed in the hearing chamber. Representatives of the YRITWC will have a press availability after the hearing has been concluded.

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