

## **Bail Reduced for Couple Charged with Money Laundering at Slots**

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MAYS LANDING — A judge has reduced the bail for a New York couple charged with using Atlantic City casino slot machines to launder money the woman allegedly obtained by embezzling \$1.1 million from her employer.

Superior Court Judge Michael Donio reduced the bail Friday from \$1 million to \$300,000 for Jamine Alabre and her boyfriend, Mathurin Ambroise.

Alabre, 26, of Westbury, and Ambroise, 33, of St. Albans, were indicted in January on charges of receiving stolen property and money laundering.

It is alleged that between January and October 2005, Alabre and Ambroise laundered more than \$500,000 of the stolen cash using slot machines, primarily at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa.

Alabre's lawyer, Vincent Sanzone Jr., argued at Friday's bail hearing that his client had no prior record and is not a flight risk. He told the judge the bail was unreasonable and excessive.

“The charges are ridiculous, and my client cannot wait to be vindicated by a jury,” Sanzone said Monday.

Ambroise is being represented by Anthony Scordo. Deputy Attorney General Yvonne Maher is handling the state's case.

In July 2005, the Nassau County, N.Y., Sheriff's Department arrested Alabre on charges of grand larceny and falsifying business records for allegedly stealing the cash from her former employer, IPSOS, an international marketing firm based on Long Island. That case will likely be tried in New York, Sanzone said Monday.

New York authorities arrested the couple in January on the charges of money laundering and receiving stolen property. They were transported last week from New York to the Atlantic County jail.

Sanzone said Monday afternoon that he received a call from a bail bondsman and he expected Alabre would make bail in the near future.

As of Monday afternoon, Alabre and her boyfriend had not yet posted bail, a jail employee confirmed.

If convicted, each defendant faces as long as 20 years in prison on the money-laundering charge and 10 years on the charge of receiving stolen property.

The couple is back in court March 7 for a status conference.