FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jodilyn A. Erikson-Muldrew, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Phone: 786-5540

LOCAL DOCTOR FORMALLY CHARGED AND ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH PATIENTS

The Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office filed formal charges against Jitesh J. Chawla, age 30, for sexual misconduct with patients. Chawla is charged with three (3) counts of Indecent Liberties and is expected to appear in Thurston County Superior Court today, Friday, October 6, 2006 at 3:30 PM for a preliminary appearance on these charges.

The case has been assigned to Jodilyn A. Erikson-Muldrew, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, who is a member of the office's Special Victims Team.

If anyone has any information that they feel may be relevant to the investigation please contact Detective Tom Furrer at the Lacey Police Department at 360-459-4333.

Released by EDWARD G. HOLM
Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
October 6, 2006