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FORMER MONROE TAX PREPARER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Monroe, Louisiana . . . RENEE L. MINOR, age 27, of Monroe, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Robert G. James to **spend 27 months in prison** for federal income tax fraud, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced.

MINOR, a former tax preparer in the Monroe area, was indicted in October 2006. A jury sitting in Monroe convicted MINOR in April of this year of 12 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false income tax returns. Testimony at trial revealed that MINOR assisted in the preparation and filing of individual federal income tax returns for calendar year 2004 which were false and fraudulent. The federal income tax returns were prepared using false W-2 forms and the returns fraudulently claimed tax refunds in excess of the amount the taxpayers were entitled to receive.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Martha J. Levardsen.

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