



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY: Milwaukee woman who operated tax return preparation business charged with 25 counts of filing false tax returns

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic for the Eastern District of Wisconsin announced that yesterday, a federal grand jury in Milwaukee returned a 25-count indictment against Sylvia Gates, 27, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The indictment alleges that during 2006 and 2007, Gates operated a tax return preparation business under the names Sylvia Tax Service and S & P Fast Tax Service through which she prepared and filed false federal income tax returns fraudulently seeking tax refunds from the federal government. According to the indictment, Gates prepared and submitted 81 fraudulent tax returns seeking more than \$180,000 in federal tax refunds. The indictment charges Gates with 25 specific instances in which she allegedly filed false tax returns fraudulently seeking tax refunds totaling more than \$56,000. If convicted of filing a fraudulent claim for a tax refund, Gates faces up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

This matter was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew L. Jacobs for prosecution.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against the defendant. A defendant is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, as the government presents evidence to establish his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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