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February 2, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**TAX RETURN PREPARER SENTENCED FOR
FILING 60 FALSE INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR CLIENTS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that EDITH DAVIDSON, 29, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 27 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge John Daniel Tinder following her guilty plea to aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false income tax returns, which claimed false tax refunds totaling almost \$270,000.00. Today's charges follow an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

DAVIDSON was an income tax return preparer, employed by an Indianapolis Jackson Hewitt tax franchise from approximately 2000 thru sometime this year. Beginning in approximately 2003 and continuing thru approximately 2005, DAVIDSON prepared or caused to be prepared a total of sixty (60) false income tax returns for other individuals. Many of

these individuals were friends or relatives of DAVIDSON or of another return preparer who DAVIDSON instructed in the preparation of false tax returns. The false returns prepared by DAVIDSON or at her direction were for the tax years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Each of the returns were false or fraudulent in that they contained false and fraudulent income information, false and fraudulent dependents, and/or false and fraudulent earned income credit claimed. Of the sixty (60) false tax returns filed, forty-seven (47) contained totally fictitious W-2 forms; the other thirteen (13) contained W-2 forms which had been altered. The use of these W-2 forms on the tax returns enabled DAVIDSON to falsely inflate the refunds due by, among other things, claiming a large Earned Income Credit to which the individuals were not entitled. DAVIDSON personally prepared and caused to be filed forty-one (41) of the false income tax returns; she instructed and assisted another return preparer in the preparation and filing of the other nineteen (19) returns. The total amount of refunds fraudulently claimed on the sixty (60) tax returns was \$269,448.00.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Susan Heckard Dowd, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Tinder also imposed 1 year of supervised release following DAVIDSON' s release from imprisonment.

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