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CHARLES D. JONES INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY

Jones facing tax charges

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . A federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging CHARLES D. JONES, of Monroe, Louisiana, with tax evasion and filing false tax returns, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today.

The indictment alleges that in August 2001 JONES filed a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2000, which falsely reported the amount of his gross receipts or sales. It is further alleged that in October 2003, JONES filed an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year 1999, which falsely reported the amount of his adjusted gross income.

It is also alleged in the indictment that from July 1995 until December 2003, JONES attempted to evade and defeat a large part of income tax due and owing by him to the United States by converting checks for legal fees into cashier's checks and cash and purchasing property and a certificate of deposit. It is further alleged that JONES used a nominee to purchase property and used the certificate of deposit as collateral for a loan and later reimbursed the nominee over \$300,000 for construction of a home on the property

purchased. The indictment also alleges that JONES later executed an act of exchange of the property from the nominee to JONES and his wife, and then executed a cash sale deed transferring the home from nominee to JONES' wife.

If convicted, JONES faces a penalty of up to 5 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, on each count.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joe Jarzabek and Mignonne Griffing.

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