



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Sally Scheall

**STANDISH WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO PREPARING A FALSE TAX RETURN**

Sally Scheall, 45, of Standish, Michigan, pleaded guilty to willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax return, announced Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice M. Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

According to court records, during 2004 through 2006, Scheall willfully prepared 123 tax returns claiming Schedule "A" deductions in amounts that she knew were materially false and that the taxpayers were not entitled to claim. The resulting tax losses to the Internal Revenue Service totaled over \$230,000. All of these false and fraudulent tax returns were electronically filed with the Internal Revenue Service by Scheall. By filing these fraudulent tax returns, Scheall caused the IRS to issue inflated refunds to the taxpayers.

Acting United States Attorney Berg said, "This case clearly demonstrates my office's commitment to aggressively prosecute tax fraud. I commend the vigilance of the IRS in detecting this type of crime. We will take all appropriate actions against those who prepare fraudulent tax returns."

"No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them," said Aouate. "At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously."

Scheall is scheduled to be sentenced on January 22, 2009, 3:00 pm, in front of United States District Court Judge Thomas L. Ludington, Bay City, Michigan.

Aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax returns carries a maximum penalty of three years and \$250,000 fine per count.

Acting United States Attorney Berg thanked the IRS Criminal Investigation for their investigation of the case. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's branch office in Bay City, Michigan.