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Jefferson Woman Convicted by Jury on Charges of Federal Tax Evasion and Impeding the IRS

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that, following a six day jury trial in U.S. District Court in Portland, Maine, Shirley St. Pierre, 55, of Jefferson, Maine was found guilty on one count of federal income tax evasion relating to her 2002 federal income tax return, and one count of impeding the enforcement of the Internal Revenue Laws. She was acquitted of two additional counts of tax evasion relating to her 2000 and 2001 federal income tax returns. St. Pierre faces a possible sentence of up to five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on the tax evasion charge and up to three years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on the charge of impeding the IRS. She may also be ordered to pay the costs of prosecution in connection with the trial.

The evidence at trial demonstrated that St. Pierre failed to reflect approximately \$460,000 of income she earned through her business, the Staab Agency, on her personal income tax return for the year 2002. That resulted in an underpayment of approximately \$183,000 of federal income tax. The evidence also showed that during an IRS audit of her and her business in 2003, she created false and fraudulent documentation that was provided to the agent conducting the audit.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service. Sentencing will occur following the preparation of a presentence investigation report by the U.S. Probation Office in Portland.