



# PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Middle District of Florida

**PAUL I. PEREZ**  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

400 North Tampa Street  
Suite 3200  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
813/274-6000  
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street,  
Suite 700  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
904/301-6300  
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 W. Church Street  
Suite 300  
Orlando, Florida 32805  
407/648-7500  
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,  
Suite 3-137  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
239/461-2200  
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

## For Immediate Release

April 15, 2004

### MAN INDICTED ON TAX CHARGES

**TAMPA** – United States Attorney Paul I. Perez and Francine Evans, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Tampa Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, announced today that Randall A. Skelton of Gulfport, Florida has been indicted for five counts of willfully failing to file income tax returns for the years 1997 through 2001, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7203. Each count carries a maximum sentence of one year' imprisonment and a fine of \$25,000.

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez stated, "People should take notice that the government aggressively prosecutes individuals who file false income tax returns, as well as individuals who fail to file a return. Cheating on taxes amounts to stealing from the government and from people who pay their fair and honest share."

"Failing to file a tax return is just as dishonest as filing a false return," stated Francine Evans, Acting Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation, Tampa Field Office. "IRS Criminal Investigation is the law enforcement arm of the IRS and is committed to vigorous enforcement of the tax laws. Maintaining confidence in the fairness of the tax

system is vital to effective tax administration.” Acting SAC Evans reminds taxpayers to:

- Avoid preparers who claim they can obtain a larger refund than other preparers.
- Use a tax professional who signs your return and provides you with a copy.
- Never sign a blank income tax return.
- Remember, you are responsible for what appears on your return; so review the return, and ask questions if you aren’t sure about the amounts.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay G. Trezevant.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.