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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CATONSVILLE WOMAN INDICTED FOR AIDING THE FILING OF FALSE
U.S. INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today a federal grand jury indicted Bonita McMorris, age 38, of Catonsville, Maryland, for crimes committed in connection with the filing of false United States individual income tax returns.

The 32-count indictment charges McMorris with assisting in the preparation of false U.S. income tax returns for 7 individuals from April 1999 through 2003. The indictment alleges that McMorris created false medical expenses, real estate taxes, charitable gifts, and miscellaneous expenses in an effort to inflate IRS refunds to these individual taxpayers. The total tax loss was approximately \$147,000. The maximum penalty for each count is up to 3 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000. McMorris may also be ordered to make full restitution.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ari S. Casper.