

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 3, 2005

Carol C. Lam, United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, and Eileen J. O'Connor, Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, announced today that a federal grand jury in San Diego handed up an indictment charging Patricia Corral, a tax return preparer in Calexico, California, with felony charges. The 11-count indictment contains charges of false claims to the United States, filing a false tax return, and forgery of refund anticipation loan checks.

According to the indictment, Corral was a tax return preparer employed in Calexico, California, by Tax Services Sales, LLC, during the years 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000. Tax Services Sales, LLC provided services which included issuing refund anticipation loan checks for individuals that filed electronic income tax returns. Corral presented to the Internal Revenue Service false claims for tax refunds for individuals that she knew were not entitled to the income tax refunds claimed. Corral forged and cashed refund anticipation loan checks of tax clients who filed electronic returns. Corral filed a false 2000 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return and failed to report the funds Corral obtained by stealing and cashing refund anticipation loan checks

totaling more than \$21,000.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, and prosecuted by Department of Justice, Tax Division, Trial Attorneys Christopher J. Maietta and Charles A. O'Reilly. For more information on the return preparer fraud, visit the Abusive Return Preparer Enforcement link on the www.irs.gov website.

DEFENDANT

Patricia Corral

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Forgery of a Security of State or Private Entity in violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Section 513(a)
Maximum sentence: Ten years in prison and fine not to exceed \$250,000.

False Claims to the United States in violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Section 287
Maximum sentence: Five years in prison and fine not to exceed \$250,000.

False Income Tax Return in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1)
Maximum sentence: Three years in prison and fine not to exceed \$250,000.

AGENCY

Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.