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FRESNO TAX PREPARER INDICTED ON FORTY-FOUR COUNTS OF FRAUD

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury in Fresno returned a forty-four count indictment charging RUBEN GARCIA SANDOVAL with willfully preparing false tax returns and aiding and abetting. According to the indictment, SANDOVAL, 56, of Fresno, California, was the owner of St. Doval Income Tax, located in Fresno.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that from March 31, 1997 until April 15, 2001, SANDOVAL submitted false tax returns on behalf of his clients, knowing they were fraudulent and false as to a material matter. Specifically, he falsely claimed filing status, Individual Retirement Account (IRA) contributions and KEOGH plan contributions, itemized deductions such as unreimbursed employee expenses and investment fees and expenses, credit for child care expenses, education credits, medical savings account deductions, and student loan interest deductions on behalf of individual taxpayers, knowing that the taxpayers' deductions, contributions and expenses were false.

Assistant United States Attorney Carvalho noted that the charges set forth in the indictment are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

If convicted on all counts, SANDOVAL faces up to 132 years in prison and a fine of \$11 million.

The case was investigated by the Fresno Office of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations.

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