



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

# NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO PRISON**

Wichita, Kan. – A former tax preparer has been sentenced to 15 months in federal prison, without parole, for willfully preparing false and fraudulent federal income tax returns, U.S. Attorney for Kansas Eric Melgren announced Monday.

The former preparer, Lisa K. Haines, 43, was convicted May 16 by a federal jury here involving tax returns she prepared for tax years 1997 and 1998. She was sentenced Monday by U.S. District Judge Monti L. Belot, who also ordered the defendant to pay \$1,200 to the federal crime victims fund and to serve one year on supervised release after she completes her federal prison sentence.

Evidence presented at Haines' trial indicated that she has been in the tax preparation business since 1992 and had prepared a total of more than 100 federal income tax returns containing false or fraudulent information for tax years 1997 and 1998 alone. The total amount of under-reported income was about \$470,000, Melgren said.

“Tax preparers who prepare false returns should expect to be prosecuted,” Melgren said. “And the federal sentencing guidelines require incarceration for those convicted, so they also should expect to go to prison.”

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation and prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorney Brent Anderson.