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**March 24, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WOMAN INDICTED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury indicted Karen D. Harrison, 48, of Washington, DC, for crimes committed in connection with preparation of false income tax returns. The fifteen-count indictment charges Harrison with two counts of evasion of income for her personal tax returns and thirteen counts of submitting false tax returns for others claiming false itemized deductions and claiming a child care credit for an individual who did not qualify for the credit.

Ms. Harrison was arrested this morning, March 24, 2003, by agents of the Criminal Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, and appeared before a United States Magistrate Judge. The defendant was released pending trial. The maximum penalty for each income tax evasion count is imprisonment for five years and a fine of \$250,000. The maximum penalty for each count of filing a false return for others is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$100,000.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at later criminal proceedings. The charges in this indictment are

the result of a joint investigation by the IRS and the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Maryland.