



# Department of Justice

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## **JACKSONVILLE CONSPIRATORS SENTENCED FOR SCHEME USING JACKSON HEWITT TAX SERVICE**

Jacksonville, Florida - U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Corrigan yesterday sentenced Vinlencia Brooks, age 31, and Dessie Pollard, Jr., age 52, for conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service by filing false tax returns. Judge Corrigan sentenced Brooks to thirty months' imprisonment and three years' supervised release and sentenced Pollard to six months' imprisonment, and six months' home detention as a condition of three years' supervised release. Pollard pled guilty on February 6, 2007; Brooks pled guilty on February 7, 2007.

United States Magistrate Judge Howard T. Snyder previously had sentenced a co-defendant, Jimmy Henderson, age 59, to three years' probation, with a condition of 180 days' home detention. Henderson had pled guilty on February 13, 2007, to the same conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service by filing false tax returns.

According to court documents, early in 2002, Pollard and Henderson were tax preparers at the Jackson Hewitt Tax Service branch office located at 45th and Main Street, Jacksonville. Vinlencia Brooks prepared false W-2 Forms, using the names and social security numbers of various individuals. The W-2's stated false employment and false amounts of tax withholdings. Brooks provided the false W-2's to Pollard and Henderson at the Jackson Hewitt office. Pollard and Henderson prepared false tax returns based on

the W-2s and electronically filed the returns with the IRS, causing the IRS to issue refunds. Conspirators shared the refunds. As a result of the scheme, the IRS issued refunds amounting to more than \$92,204.

The case was investigated by Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan Humes Raab.