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TAX PROTESTOR SENTENCED TO ALMOST THREE YEARS

Orlando, FL - U.S. District Judge Patricia C. Fawsett sentenced Scott J. Walford yesterday to 33 months of imprisonment and ordered him to pay the Internal Revenue Service \$272,005.96 in restitution for evading income taxes. On June 19, 2007, a jury found Scott J. Walford guilty of four counts of tax evasion.

According to court documents, Walford earned \$226,292.48 in 2000, and yet claimed that he was exempt from paying income taxes. He owed \$69,582 in taxes for 2000, but paid nothing. Walford also was charged with evading his income taxes in 2001 through 2003. The total amount of taxes he owed for those years was \$23,995.

Evidence presented by the government during trial showed that Walford asserted various frivolous arguments in denying his tax liability, including that he had no obligation to file a tax return. During the trial, Walford repeatedly asserted that the court lacked the jurisdiction to proceed with the criminal trial and that the prosecution was unlawful. The court rejected his repeated assertions.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Katherine M. Ho.