



Department of Justice

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NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

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BIRMINGHAM PASTOR CONVICTED IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. – Gregory Louis Clarke, 53, of Birmingham, was convicted today of filing false income tax returns after a federal jury deliberated about two hours. The jury verdict is announced by U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin and Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, Special Agent in Charge, Rebecca A. Sparkman.

Clarke, a Birmingham Pastor, was charged in a three count indictment in March 2007 with filing false income tax returns for the 2000, 2001, and 2002 years. Evidence revealed during trial included under reported income in the approximate amount of \$110,000 for the tax years listed above. The jury found that the unreported income was compensation to Clarke.

"We appreciate the jury focusing on their job instead of the side show outside the courtroom during this trial," stated U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin. "The guilty verdict clearly shows that the need to be truthful on tax returns applies to everyone."

The penalty for filing false income tax returns is not more than three years in prison and a fine of not more than \$100,000, or both. A sentencing hearing is set for October 22, 2007, before Judge Inge Johnson.

"No one is above the law," stated Rebecca A. Sparkman, Internal Revenue Service Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigations, Atlanta Field Division. "Compliance with our tax laws should be shared equally among all Americans."

Assistant United States Attorneys William C. Athanas and Lloyd C. Peeples prosecuted the case on behalf of the U.S. Government. Special Agents with the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, conducted the investigation of this case.

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