

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

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NEWS RELEASE

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ST. LOUIS AREA TAX RETURN PREPARER INDICTED

St. Louis, Missouri: Yolanda White was indicted on multiple charges of falsifying information on clients' tax returns, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

The indictment alleges that during 2004 and 2005, in her capacity as a tax return preparer, White overstated her clients' deductions and tax credits and misstated her clients' filing statuses in order to generate larger refunds.

"While most return preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few unscrupulous tax preparers file false and fraudulent returns to defraud the government, the tax paying public and their own clients," stated James D. Vickery, Special Agent in Charge of IRS-Criminal Investigation. "Always review your return before signing it and ask for clarification on any items you do not understand completely. Remember that no matter who prepares your tax return, you are ultimately responsible for all of the information on the tax return."

YOLANDA WHITE, St. Louis, was indicted by a federal grand jury on sixteen felony counts of making false statements on a tax return. The indictment was returned late Thursday, March 15, but remained sealed until the arrest of the defendant earlier today.

If convicted, each charge carries a maximum penalty of three years prison and/or fines up to \$250,000.

Hanaway commended the work performed on the case by Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Steven Muchnick is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The charges set forth in an indictment are merely accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.