

Department of Instice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HAMILTON WOMAN CHARGED WITH PREPARING AND FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

BIRMINGHAM: SHARON BROWN-ACKLIN has been indicted in United States District Court and charged with forty-three counts of filing false income tax returns.

BROWN-ACKLIN, 36, of Hamilton, Alabama, a tax preparer, allegedly prepared false and fraudulent tax returns for taxpayers and filed them with the Internal Revenue Service. BROWN-ACKLIN's use of false information, including filing status, inflated deductions and credits, resulted in \$252,123 of improperly claimed deductions and exemptions.

"Honest citizens dutifully pay their taxes every year, and those who lie about their income and those who help others lie about their income will be prosecuted," stated United States Attorney Alice H. Martin.

If convicted, BROWN-ACKLIN faces a maximum term of imprisonment of three years and a fine of not more than \$100,000 on each count.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura D. Hodge on behalf of the United States.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only charges. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

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