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Jefferson Woman Sentenced for Income Tax Evasion

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that the Federal District Court in Portland yesterday sentenced Shirley St. Pierre, 55, of Jefferson, Maine, to 27 months imprisonment, to be followed by 2 years of supervised release in connection with her conviction in October of 2008 of tax evasion for the year 2002 and attempting to obstruct an Internal Revenue Service audit of her and her company, the Staab Agency. Judge D. Brock Hornby also ordered St. Pierre to pay a fine of \$75,000 and approximately \$5,100 of costs incurred by the government in conducting her trial. St. Pierre must report to prison in April.

During trial the government presented evidence that St. Pierre, the sole owner of the Staab Agency, a Jefferson business that acts as an agent for out of state businesses and individuals registering vehicles and truck trailers in the State of Maine, failed to report approximately \$1.2 million dollars of business income during a three-year period from 2000-2002. This resulted in her underpayment of about \$511,000 of federal income taxes. The government also presented evidence that during the IRS tax audit, which led to the criminal investigation and trial, false documentation was presented to the IRS in an effort to conceal the understatement of income. The jury convicted St. Pierre of tax evasion for the 2002 tax year, and an additional charge of obstructing the IRS. She was acquitted of two other tax evasion charges relating to the 2000 and 2001 tax years. St. Pierre has repaid all back taxes and interest.

United States Attorney Silsby stated that "it is essential to enforce the federal tax laws to ensure that every citizen pays his or her fair share of taxes." She praised the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service's criminal investigation division, which conducted a multi-year investigation culminating in St. Pierre's conviction.

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JoAnn S. Zúñiga, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation stated that, "the prosecution of individuals who intentionally conceal income and evade taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system. We should not expect the honest taxpayer to foot the bill for those who hide income from the IRS."

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