



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

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Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

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SHREVEPORT TAX PREPARER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . CLEMENTINE RAINEY of Shreveport, Louisiana, a 37-year-old former tax preparer for Quick Tax in Shreveport, was sentenced Thursday by United States District Judge Tom Stagg to a term of 21 months in prison and was ordered to pay \$111,000 in restitution for preparing false tax returns, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced.

RAINEY plead guilty August 22, 2008, to one count of Aiding the Preparation of False Returns and admitted to preparing and filing false individual income tax returns for taxpayers for the years 2005 through 2007 by submitting fictitious W-2 employer and wage information.

The investigation by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division revealed that RAINEY submitted W-2s that claimed the taxpayers earned wages from two local companies when in fact none of the taxpayers were ever employed at these companies. The IRS identified approximately 24 taxpayers who had received refunds based on false tax returns prepared by RAINEY, with a resulting tax loss of approximately \$128,576.00.

United States Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: “Those who cheat the income tax system cause law abiding taxpayers to pay far more than their fair share. While it may be distasteful to some to pay those taxes legitimately owed, it remains the duty of all of us to pay our fair share. This office will continue to aggressively pursue and prosecute those who violate federal tax laws.”

IRS Criminal Investigation, New Orleans Field Office, Special Agent in Charge Michael J. De Palma commented that the object of fraudulent refund schemes is to defraud the government and the taxpaying public. In this case, IRS-CI identified and investigated the person involved in this scheme resulting in today’s sentence. The message this sentence sends is that participation in these types of schemes does not pay and those involved will be vigorously prosecuted.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations, Shreveport Resident Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl M. Campbell.

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