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## **TAX PREPARER CHARGED WITH FILING FALSE CLAIMS FOR TAX REFUNDS**

### *Owner of Nicole's Tax Service Indicted*

MONROE, La.: NICOLE DAVIS TOWNS, a resident of Monroe, was charged today with filing false claims for federal income tax refunds, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today. TOWNS, 32, was named in the indictment which alleges ten counts of making false, fictitious or fraudulent claims to the Internal Revenue Service in the form of income tax returns. An initial appearance in U.S. District Court is scheduled for January 9, 2009.

TOWNS works as the primary tax preparer at Nicole's Tax Service in Monroe, a business she also owns and operates. The indictment alleges that in 2005, Towns prepared and filed tax returns at her business knowing that the returns contained material false claims. TOWNS included false business income, and in some cases false dependents, in order to inflate her clients' Earned Income Tax Credit and thereby increase the refund amount. All of the false claims included in the indictment caused the clients' tax refunds to be greater than the amounts to which they were legitimately entitled.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Shreveport Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Scott Williams.

An indictment is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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