



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

**September 14, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

LAUREL WOMAN SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Mari Ayn Sailer, age 27, of Laurel, Maryland was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge J. Frederick Motz to 18 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for the crimes of filing a false federal income tax return and scheming to defraud a federally insured bank. Sailer had plead guilty to these crimes on April 13, 2004.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court, Sailer electronically filed six false claims for refunds of 2001 federal income taxes totaling \$501,927 in April 2002. Four of the individuals in whose names she claimed refunds were deceased and four of the W-2's accompanying the false returns listed Giant Foods as the employer, although none of the corresponding individuals worked at Giant Foods in 2001. Sailer intended to be the recipient of all the claimed refunds. She used both her then current as well as immediate past addresses on four of the six returns and the address of her then boyfriend. In May and June 2002, Sailer obtained a \$42,613.10 refund anticipation loan check issued in anticipation of the 2001 federal income tax refund to Sailer as a result of one of the fraudulent electronically filed claims in her own name.

Sailer endorsed the check over to her boyfriend with the expectation that he would deposit the check and obtain the proceeds therefrom. Because of the amount of the check and previous suspicious activity in this account, the banks contacted each other. An investigation was subsequently initiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division which revealed the extent of Sailer's fraudulent scheme. The investigation revealed that Sailer may have engaged in other fraudulent activity, including credit and identity.

Judge Motz granted a two-level downward departure because the crimes did not result in losses to any of the victim banks or the federal government. No fines or restitution were imposed due to the defendant's inability to pay and the absence of any monetary loss by the victims.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney P. Michael Cunningham.