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FORMER INCOME TAX PREPARER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Defendant ordered to pay \$72,193 in restitution

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . PAULIUS D. PITTS, age 43, of Decatur, Illinois, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Donald E. Walter to spend **36 months in prison**, followed by one year of supervised release, for filing false income tax returns, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. PITTS was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$72,193 to the Internal Revenue Service. PITTS plead guilty to one count of making false and fraudulent statements in January 2007.

PITTS was indicted in August 2006 and charged with 21 counts of making false and fraudulent statements to the Internal Revenue Service. In 2003, while working as a tax return preparer in Shreveport, PITTS prepared numerous false 2003 federal income tax returns by utilizing false Forms W-2, creating fraudulent Schedules A and C, falsely using the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the use of false dependents. The false federal income tax returns prepared by PITTS sought refunds totaling \$106,309.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison D. Bushnell.

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