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BUSINESS OWNER INDICTED IN VALLEJO ARSON OF WINES CENTRAL WAREHOUSE

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, ATF Special Agent in Charge Stephen K. Martin, and IRS Acting Special Agent in Charge Diane Carter announced today that last Thursday, a federal grand jury sitting in Sacramento returned a nineteen count indictment charging MARK S. ANDERSON, 58, of Sausalito, California, with one count of arson, four counts of interstate transportation of fraudulently obtained property, nine counts of mail fraud, one count of use of a fictitious name, and four counts of tax evasion stemming from the October 12, 2005 arson of the Wines Central warehouse in Vallejo, California.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Internal Revenue Service, the Vallejo Police Department, the Vallejo Fire Department and the Sausalito Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney R. Steven Lapham, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that ANDERSON set fire to the Wines Central warehouse in Vallejo, California, on October 12, 2005. ANDERSON rented space in the warehouse to store wine for clients who paid him a monthly fee. The indictment charges that ANDERSON sold his clients' wine without their permission and by, burning down the warehouse, concealed the evidence of

that embezzlement, as well as the taxable income generated by the wine sales.

"Mr. Anderson engaged in reckless and dangerous conduct in an attempt to conceal the brazen embezzlement of his clients' valuable wine. He now faces 19 federal felonies as a result of this failed scheme," said United States Attorney Scott.

"The fire at Wines Central impacted numerous lives and businesses. Arson is a violent crime and these victims deserve to see justice served. It is our goal to continue working as a team with the United States Attorney's Office and our partners to accomplish this goal," said Special Agent in Charge Martin of ATF's San Francisco Field Division.

According to IRS Criminal Investigation Acting Special Agent in Charge, Diane Carter, "Mr. Anderson destroyed evidence in an attempt to conceal his true income from the IRS. Our unique role in these types of investigations is to follow the money trail, which led to a deceptive scheme, motivated by greed."

The indictment handed down on March 15, 2007 was sealed until today. Mr. ANDERSON was arrested without incident at his residence in Sausalito, California on Friday, March 16. He made his initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Spiro at 9:30 a.m. today and was ordered detained. He will remain in custody until his detention hearing on March 22 at 9:30 a.m. before Magistrate Judge Spiro at the federal courthouse in San Francisco.

The maximum statutory penalty for the indicted charges are: arson, 7 to 20 years; interstate transportation of fraudulently obtained property, 10 years for each count; mail fraud 20 years for each count; use of a fictitious name, 5 years; and tax evasion, 5 years. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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