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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SACRAMENTO WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR PHONY TAX REFUND SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that CHARLENE L. SAUCIER, 37, of Sacramento, was sentenced today by United States District Judge D. Lowell Jensen to 18 months in prison, to be followed by a three-year term of supervised release, in connection with her role in a scheme to submit fraudulent tax returns to the IRS seeking refunds. SAUCIER was also ordered to pay \$2,273 in restitution to the IRS for a refund that was issued based on a fraudulent return.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service—Criminal Investigations.

SAUCIER's former husband, TAVORIS TIMANE SAUCIER, 28, of North Highlands, California, was previously sentenced by Judge Jensen on November 13, 2007, to five months in prison and three years of supervised release in connection with the same scheme.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Camil A. Skipper and Benjamin B. Wagner, who prosecuted the case, CHARLENE SAUCIER admitted in her guilty plea that, in 2004 and 2005, the SAUCIERs recruited individuals willing to submit fraudulent tax returns to the IRS, and that she prepared tax returns for at least two such individuals using false income and dependent information so that they appeared to qualify for refunds under the Earned Income Credit (EIC) provisions of the tax code. She and her former husband had agreed to split with those individuals any refunds issued by the IRS as a result of the false claims. No refunds were issued by the IRS on those returns. She also filed false tax returns in her

own name for the years 2003 and 2004, using false income information to claim EIC refunds, and received one refund for \$2,273.

In 2000, CHARLENE SAUCIER pleaded guilty in Sacramento federal court to a nearly identical phony tax return scheme, in which she admitted preparing false tax returns seeking EIC refunds. She served a one-year sentence in that case. As a condition of her three-year supervised release in this case, she will be prohibited from preparing tax returns.

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