



Department of Justice

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PHONY TAX RETURN PREPARER SENTENCED TO PRISON

Defendant posed as CPA and prepared fraudulent returns

Atlanta, GA - LARRY VONZELL BLACK, 53, of Canton, Georgia was sentenced today by United States District Judge Jack T. Camp on charges of filing false claims with the Internal Revenue Service.

“This defendant thought he could steal from the United States Treasury,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “Today the defendant learned he will serve 15 months in prison for his fraud. Others involved in similar schemes should take heed.”

Rodney E. Clarke, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, said “IRS-CI is determined to stop these false refund schemes. The message this case sends is that participation in refund fraud schemes does not pay and those who do may be prosecuted and imprisoned.”

BLACK was sentenced to 15 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. BLACK pleaded guilty to these charges on July 16, 2007.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: BLACK falsely told members of the public, as well as friends and acquaintances, that he was a Certified Public Accountant trained to prepare tax returns. He advertised his tax preparation services at a booth set up in a check-cashing store on Cobb Parkway, in metropolitan Atlanta. Under the guise of preparing legitimate tax returns, he obtained personal information, including social security numbers and W-2 forms, from taxpayers. BLACK then used the taxpayers’ information to submit false claims by forging a signature on each taxpayer’s tax return, directing the payment of refunds to himself and distributing only a small portion of the fraudulent refunds to his victims. In all, BLACK submitted false claims for over \$46,000.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Paul Monnin prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.