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NEWS RELEASE

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Two Men Charged in Tax Fraud Conspiracy

United States Attorney David E. O'Meilia and Michael P. Lahey, Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Field Office of Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations, announced the return of a Grand Jury indictment today against Lindsey Kent Springer, 43, of Kellyville, and Oscar Amos Stilley, 45, of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The Indictment charges *Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, Tax Evasion and Failure to File Tax Returns*. Springer used the name Bondage Breakers Ministry to solicit and receive money. Springer's stated purpose for Bondage Breakers Ministry was "to get rid of the Internal Revenue Service." The Indictment alleges that Stilley, an attorney, assisted Springer's tax evasion through a variety of means. Stilley maintained an interest bearing account, called an Arkansas IOLTA Foundation Trust account, which lawyers use to deposit and hold client funds. The pair allegedly used the IOLTA account and various other devices such as cashier's checks, check cashing services, money orders, cash and other means to conceal Springer's actual income and avoid creating the usual records of financial institutions. Springer allegedly told IRS employees that all funds he receives are gifts and donations to his ministry and that he does not have any income and he does not provide any services for payment. The indictment lists numerous transactions involving hundreds of thousands of dollars between Springer and Stilley that flowed through the IOLTA account, such as \$166,000 paid out in August 2005 to purchase a motor home titled in the name of Springer and his wife, and a September 2005 payment of \$25,813 to purchase a Lexus automobile titled in Springer's name. Furthermore, the Indictment states that neither Springer or Stilley have filed an income tax return since the late 1980's. Springer faces five counts alleging criminal violations of the federal tax laws for the years 2000, and 2002 through 2005.

If the defendants are found guilty of the offenses charged in Counts 1 through 4, they face a maximum prison sentence of up to five years per count and/or a \$250,000 fine per

count. Springer faces a total of 22 years in Federal prison if convicted of all counts; Stilley faces a total of 15 years in Federal prison if convicted of all counts.

The prosecution of the matter is being handled by the Department of Justice Tax Division Trial Attorney Charles O'Reilly and Northern District of Oklahoma Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Snoke. The investigation was undertaken by the Tulsa Office of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division.

The return of an indictment against an individual is one method of informing him of alleged violations of criminal law which must be proven in a court of law beyond a reasonable doubt to overcome the individual's presumption of innocence.