



PRESS RELEASE

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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS ALBUQUERQUE MAN
OF RETALIATING AGAINST IRS EMPLOYEES**

ALBUQUERQUE – Last night, a federal jury sitting in Albuquerque found John S. Williamson, 68, of Albuquerque, guilty of two felony offenses after a two-day trial, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales.

Mr. Williamson and his wife, Nancy L. Williamson, 67, were indicted on Oct. 26, 2011, and charged with (1) attempting to interfere with the administration of the Internal Revenue laws, and (2) retaliating against a federal employees by filing false claims. The indictment alleged that, on Dec. 30, 2008, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson impeded the administration of the Internal Revenue Code by filing a false and fraudulent Claim of Lien in the Bernalillo County Recorder's office against the real and personal property of two IRS employees. It further alleged that Mr. and Mrs. Williamson filed the false liens against the property of the IRS employees to retaliate against the employees for performing their official duties.

Trial as to Mr. Williamson began on Aug. 20, 2012. The evidence at trial established that, for more than 20 years, the IRS initiated a series of collection actions against Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, an engineer and a nurse, respectively, based on federal taxes assessed against them.

According to the evidence, on Dec. 30, 2008, Mr. Williamson filed a fraudulent claim of lien against the real and personal property belonging to an IRS revenue agent and the agent's supervisor, both of whom had been involved for years in tax collection actions to collect federal income taxes from Mr. Williamson. The lien asserted that the two IRS employees owed Mr. Williamson almost \$1 billion (\$909,067,650.00 plus interest) and attached to the IRS employees' residences, vehicles, personal property, IRA accounts, 401K accounts, and checking and savings accounts. The lien stated that the IRS employees personally owed Mr. Williamson this money for past property seizures and garnishment of Mrs. Williamson's wages by the IRS.

The IRS employees testified that they had no personal relationship with Mr. Williamson that would have given rise to the lien against them, and that they knew him only through the performance of their official duties in their efforts to collect federal income taxes assessed against him by the IRS.

The jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning a verdict of guilty on both counts of the indictment.

At sentencing, Mr. Williamson faces up to three years of imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine on Count 1 of the indictment, and up to ten years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on Count 2. Mr. Williamson remains on conditions of release pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Mrs. Williamson pled guilty to Count 2 of the indictment on May 7, 2012, under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office. In entering her plea, Mrs. Williamson admitted that, on Dec. 30, 2008, she filed a claim of lien against the property of the two IRS employees knowing that the lien was false. She further admitted that, at the time she filed the lien, the two IRS employees were in the process of collecting taxes assessed against Mr. Williamson through levies on her wages, and that neither employee owed her anything in their personal capacities.

Under the terms of her plea agreement, Mrs. Williamson will receive a probationary sentence, and Count 1 of the indictment will be dismissed as against her after she is sentenced. Mrs. Williamson remains on conditions of release pending her sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary L. Higgins, and was investigated by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

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