



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FAIRBANKS MAN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY FOR TAX EVASION

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Kevin Feldis announced today, September 16, 2009, that Roger Lee Shoffstall of Fairbanks, Alaska, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Anchorage on a charge of evasion of payment of tax.

The one-count indictment named Shoffstall, 59, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictment, Shoffstall is the president and owner of Summit Telephone and Telegraph Company of Alaska, Inc. (Summit), which is a rural telecommunications utility that provides telephone service to several hundred customers located in remote areas north of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Shoffstall is charged with failing to pay income taxes for the tax years 1996 through 2003 and failing to file federal individual income tax returns with the IRS for those years and any years thereafter. The indictment also alleges that Shoffstall mailed simulated legal process and other documents to the IRS citing frivolous anti-tax arguments, and submitted a false Form W-4 Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate to his employer claiming exempt status so as to cause zero or minimal withholding from his pay. The indictment further alleges that he used his position as president of Summit to prevent the company's compliance with an IRS Levy and an IRS Final Demand for Payment which would have garnished his wages and failed to comply with two IRS Administrative Summonses that were served to him demanding payroll and personnel records.

Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen Cooper and Thomas C. Bradley, who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offense(s) and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The Internal Revenue Service–Criminal Investigation conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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