



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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TWO INDICTED FOR FRAUDULENT TAX RETURN SCHEME

FRESNO, Calif. — United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today the unsealing of a 12-count federal grand jury indictment returned on September 24, 2009. According to the indictment, BRIAN VINCENT STRETCH and SARAH RENEE GREER are charged with a fraudulent tax refund scheme that targeted the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the IRS-Criminal Investigation and the Franchise Tax Board.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark J. McKeon, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that STRETCH and GREER conspired to defraud the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board by submitting tax returns claiming refunds of withholding taxes that were never paid. The indictment alleges that they claimed more than \$884,000 in federal refunds and more than \$97,000 in state refunds as part of this scheme.

If convicted, STRETCH faces the maximum penalty of 110 years in prison, and GREER faces the maximum penalty of 45 years in prison. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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