



U.S. Department of Justice

Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

Stephen Moore - IRS - (313) 234-2410

July 10, 2009

Event: Indictment

Defendant: Shannon Robertson

REDFORD RETURN PREPARER INDICTED ON TAX CHARGES

Shannon Robertson, of Redford Township, Michigan, was arrested and arraigned today on an unsealed indictment charging him with one count of filing a false tax return and 32 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false federal income tax returns, announced United States Attorney Terrence Berg.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice M. Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

According to court records, during 2005 and 2006, Robertson willfully prepared 32 fraudulent tax returns claiming false filing status, dependents, income, withholdings, and business expenses, knowing that these taxpayers were not entitled to claim these items. As part of the scheme Robertson created over \$400,000 in income to maximize credits and refunds for these taxpayers. Robertson also claimed a false filing status on his personal tax return, signed under penalties of perjury.

United States Attorney Berg said, "Tax preparers owe a special duty to their customers and to the law not to create false tax returns to generate bogus refunds."

"No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them," said Aouate. "At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

If convicted, Robertson faces a statutory maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 on each count.

United States Attorney Berg thanked the IRS Criminal Investigation for their investigation of the case. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Delonis