



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**JACKSON TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON
FOR PREPARING FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

Jackson, Miss - Patricia Ann Sullivan a/k/a Patricia Hallmon Sullivan a/k/a Patricia Odom of Jackson, Mississippi, was sentenced to 36 months in prison today for preparing numerous false federal income tax returns, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter, and James C. Lee, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, announced. She was also ordered to serve a one-year term of supervised release.

On September 30, 2010, Sullivan was found guilty of eight counts of preparing false tax returns. During the trial, it was revealed that Sullivan had been preparing tax returns for over twenty years, including work at a number of different tax preparation businesses in the Jackson, Mississippi, area. The taxpayers whose returns Sullivan falsely prepared testified that they never told her to claim large itemized deductions and did not give her any documents to support the large amounts claimed for itemized deductions. In addition, the evidence at trial revealed that Sullivan had included fraudulent business expenses for two taxpayers who did not even own a business. Sullivan also fraudulently listed "foster children" on various taxpayers' returns in order for those taxpayers to claim dependents and the Earned Income Credit, when in fact these taxpayers did not have foster children. According to the IRS special agent who testified, the amount of false claims contained in these returns submitted to the IRS totaled \$481,798.00. During today's sentencing, it was also revealed that Sullivan had prepared returns for numerous other people not included in the indictment, resulting in a \$85,386.00 total tax loss to the federal government. Sullivan also attempted to obstruct

justice during the audit of one of her clients by directing the creation and submission of false receipts to justify false deductions and expenses which she had claimed on her client's tax returns.

James C. Lee, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, stated: "We are pleased with today's sentence. At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money and trust is a matter we take extremely seriously. An integral part of the agency's mission involves detecting and catching fraudulent refund claims. Special Agents of IRS Criminal Investigation are determined to stop these false tax refund schemes. We will continue to work aggressively with the United States Attorney's Office to protect the taxpayer's interest. The message this case sends is that participation in refund fraud schemes does not pay and those who do will be prosecuted."

U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter commended the investigative efforts of the Special Agents and Revenue Agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation in the Jackson and Oxford offices.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mike Hurst.

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