



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 5, 2010**

**JACKSON WOMAN CHARGED WITH  
PREPARING FALSE FEDERAL TAX RETURNS**

Jackson, Miss. – Patricia Ann Sullivan a/k/a Patricia Hallmon Sullivan a/k/a Patricia Odom, age 41, from Jackson, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda R. Anderson today for her arraignment on federal tax charges, announced U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter and Michael J. DePalma, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, New Orleans Field Office.

A federal grand jury returned a criminal indictment against Sullivan on February 17, 2010, charging her with 16 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false federal tax returns. If convicted, Sullivan faces up to 48 years in prison on the charges. The trial is scheduled for May 4, 2010 before U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour, Jr.

According to the criminal indictment, Sullivan aided and assisted in the preparation of 16 false tax returns for seven different individuals from tax years 2004 through 2007. The criminal indictment alleges that the returns were false because the taxpayers filing the returns were not entitled to claim various deductions, expenses and credits as had been reported on their returns. The total amount of falsely claimed items listed in the indictment is \$652,345.00.

“IRS Criminal Investigation stands ready to investigate anyone who would put a taxpayer at risk for a quick profit,” stated Michael J. De Palma, Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Field Office. “Our special agents use their investigative and financial expertise to detect and hold accountable return preparers who falsify tax returns.”

U.S. Attorney Burkhalter praised the efforts of special agents from the IRS Office in Oxford, Mississippi, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst, who is prosecuting the case.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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