



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 30, 2010**

**JACKSON TAX PREPARER FOUND GUILTY OF PREPARING  
FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

Jackson, Miss - Patricia Ann Sullivan a/k/a Patricia Hallmon Sullivan a/k/a Patricia Odom of Jackson, MS, was found guilty in U.S. District Court today of preparing eight false federal income tax returns for tax years 2005 through 2007, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter and James C. Lee, Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation announced today.

Sullivan was indicted on February 17, 2010 on charges that she prepared false federal income tax returns consisting of more than \$500,000 in false claims. During the trial, evidence showed that Sullivan had been preparing tax returns for over twenty years and worked at a number of different tax preparation businesses in the Jackson area.. Six taxpayers, whose returns Sullivan falsely prepared, testified that they never told Sullivan 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. She also fraudulently listed "foster children" on various taxpayer returns in order for those taxpayers to claim dependents and the Earned Income Credit, when in fact these taxpayers did not have foster children.

Sullivan is scheduled to be sentenced on December 15, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. before U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour, Jr. She faces a maximum penalty of 24 years in prison and \$800,000 in fines.

“We are pleased with the verdict returned today. Our tax system is built on the premise that taxpayers file accurate and timely tax returns. Willfully aiding or assisting in the preparing of false tax returns is a serious crime, punishable under federal law. To ensure confidence in our tax system, Special Agents of IRS Criminal Investigation are committed to the aggressive pursuit and prosecution of individuals who intentionally violate the nation’s tax laws,” said James C. Lee, Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation.

U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter commended the investigative efforts of the Special Agents and Revenue Agents of IRS Criminal Investigation in the Jackson and Oxford offices, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst who prosecuted the case.

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