



PRESS RELEASE

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**TAX PREPARER CHARGED WITH PREPARING
FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, Frances Rivas, 42, was arraigned on a 25-count indictment alleging that she prepared and presented false federal income tax returns, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales. Rivas, formerly of Albuquerque but now a resident of Amarillo, Texas, entered a not guilty plea to the indictment during this morning's proceedings. She was released pending trial under conditions of release and pretrial supervision.

The indictment alleges that Rivas prepared and presented false federal income tax returns on 25 separate occasions between Jan. 2008 and April 2011. According to the indictment, Rivas allegedly prepared and presented federal tax returns on behalf of a number of taxpayers that included false dependents, false filing status, false exemptions, or false W-2 wages. As a result of criminal conduct charged in the indictment, the United States allegedly suffered an aggregate loss of approximately \$98,396 in taxes.

On conviction, each of the 25 counts carries a maximum penalty of three years of imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the IRS – Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeremy Pena.

Charges in indictments are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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