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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**ALBUQUERQUE MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS IN PRISON  
FOR RETALIATING AGAINST IRS EMPLOYEES**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon, a U.S. District Judge sentenced John S. Williamson, 68, of Albuquerque, N.M., to a four-month term of imprisonment for attempting to interfere with the administration of the Internal Revenue laws, and retaliating against federal employees by filing false claims. Williamson will be on supervised release for three years after he completes his prison sentence. Williamson is to surrender himself to a federal correctional institution to be designated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

Mr. Williamson and his wife, Nancy L. Williamson, 67, were indicted on Oct. 26, 2011, and charged with (1) impeding the administration of the Internal Revenue Code by filing a false and fraudulent Claim of Lien in the Bernalillo County Recorder's office against the real and personal property of two IRS employees, and (2) filing the false liens against the property of the IRS employees to retaliate against the employees for performing their official duties.

Mrs. Williamson pled guilty to Count 2 of the indictment on May 7, 2012, and was sentenced to a one-year term of probation immediately after her husband's sentencing hearing. Mr. Williamson elected to proceed to trial, which began on Aug. 20, 2012, and ended the next day when the jury returned a verdict of guilty on both counts of the indictment.

The evidence at trial established that, for more than 20 years, the IRS initiated a series of collection actions against Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, an engineer and a nurse, respectively, based on federal taxes assessed against them. According to the evidence, on Dec. 30, 2008, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson filed a fraudulent claim of lien against the real and personal property belonging to an IRS revenue agent and the agent's supervisor, both of whom had been involved for years in tax collection actions to collect federal income taxes from Mr. and Mrs. Williamson. The lien asserted that the two IRS employees owed the Williamsons almost \$1 billion (\$909,067,650.00 plus interest) and attached to the IRS employees' residences, vehicles, personal property, IRA accounts, 401K accounts, and checking and savings accounts. The lien stated that the IRS employees personally owed the Williamsons this money for past property seizures and garnishment of Mrs. Williamson's wages by the IRS. The IRS employees testified that they had no personal relationship with the Williamsons that would have given rise to the lien against

them, and that they knew them only through the performance of their official duties in their efforts to collect federal income taxes assessed against them by the IRS.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary L. Higgins, and was investigated by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

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