

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter
Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 31, 2009
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: Peggy Kelly McFarland
PHONE: (716) 843-5877
FAX: (716) 551-3051

MAN SENTENCED IN TAX FRAUD SCHEME

BUFFALO, N.Y.--ANTONIO JONES, 41, of East Orange, New Jersey (formerly of Buffalo, New York), who was convicted of participating in a scheme to file false tax returns, on May 13, 2009, was sentenced to 12 months in prison, to be followed by a year of supervised release, by Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gretchen L. Wylegala, who handled the sentencing, stated that the defendant admitted that, during 2005, he recruited a number of acquaintances to file falsified Federal income tax returns in order to fraudulently obtain the earned income credit. Jones admitted filling out the false forms, including false W-2 forms, and splitting the refunds. Over \$30,000 in false earned income credits were sought by the defendant in this scheme, although the IRS ended up with an actual loss exceeding \$11,000. Jones was ordered to pay restitution to the IRS.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigative Division, under the direction of Patricia Haynes, Special Agent in Charge.