



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOUNT PLEASANT BUSINESS WOMAN SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR, ONE DAY, \$30k FINE

(Tyler, Texas) A 38-year-old Mount Pleasant business woman has been sentenced to 12 months and one day in federal prison for filing a false income tax return. **CONSUELO MERCADO** was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Leonard Davis. Mercado was also ordered to pay a fine of \$30,000.00.

According to information presented in court, Mercado filed a 1998 income tax return that she knew to be inaccurate and not a true reflection of her earnings for that time period. Mercado pleaded guilty to the charges in January of this year.

Matthew D, Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas was pleased with the sentence, "It is the obligation of every taxpayer to accurately report their earnings and pay their fair share of federal income tax. We will continue to investigate and prosecute those individuals who try to cheat the system."

Mercado must report on July 8, 2005 to begin serving her sentence.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service-CID and the United States Secret Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States

Attorney Alan Jackson.

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