



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER ACCOUNTANT WITH THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AND LOCAL  
BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
PREPARING FRAUDULENT TAX RETURNS**

**John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney**, announced that in San Antonio, Melvin Anthony Johnson, a former accountant with the City of San Antonio and owner of TaxMan4U, was sentenced earlier today to three years in federal prison for aiding, procuring, counseling and advising false income tax returns.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Orlando Garcia ordered that Johnson pay a \$5,000 fine and be placed under supervised release for a period of one year after completing his prison term. Following today's hearing, Judge Garcia ordered that Johnson be taken into custody to begin serving his prison term.

On March 18, 2009, Johnson pleaded guilty to the charge. By pleading guilty, Johnson admitted that during the tax years 2001 through 2004, he knowingly assisted in the preparation of fraudulent Individual Income Tax Returns which contained false education credits. Johnson admittedly informed his clients that he could get them a larger refund by finding "loop holes" in the tax system when in fact, unbeknownst to the clients, he used bogus education credits to inflate the clients' refunds. Johnson also admitted that he corruptly instructed employees to apply education credits to the returns they prepared even though the clients were not entitled to such credits. Johnson transmitted these returns electronically and filed for Refund Anticipation Loans, oftentimes without the knowledge of the clients. As a result of IRS audits, Johnson's scheme resulted in an estimated tax loss in excess of \$200,000.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Thomas McHugh is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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