



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHUCK ROSENBERG**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Former IRS Revenue Officer Pleads Guilty to Unauthorized Accesses to Tax Records**

**(Richmond, Virginia)** – Jean Christian, age 46, of Richmond, Virginia, pled guilty yesterday to one count of conspiracy to make unauthorized access of a government computer, and disclosure of tax records to an unauthorized person. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after the plea was accepted by United States Magistrate Judge M. Hannah Lauck. Christian was employed as a Revenue Officer with the Internal Revenue Service when the accesses took place. Christian faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when she is sentenced on July 19, 2007, before United States District Judge James R. Spencer.

According to court documents, during the course of the conspiracy between 1997 and the present, Christian made over 120 unauthorized accesses to tax records of seven victims in order to enable a friend to use the information she obtained in negotiation with the victims. All of the victims have been notified of the unauthorized accesses. In August 1998, Congress made it a violation of law for taxpayers to browse tax records without authorization and also made it a violation of law to disclose tax records to persons who were not authorized to receive them.

The case was investigated by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration Assistant United States Attorney Sara E. Flannery prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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