



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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May 28, 2009

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORMER SENATOR HANSEN'S THREE YEAR PRISON SENTENCE SUSPENDED**  
**ON STRICT CONDITIONS OF PROBATION**

Former Virgin Islands Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen was sentenced today in District Court on St. Croix to three years in prison for failure to file income tax returns, United States Attorney Paul A. Murphy announced. Visiting District Court Judge Frank Savage suspended all three years of the sentence and placed Hansen on probation for three years and imposed strict conditions of supervision.

Hansen was found guilty on December 10, 2008, following a jury trial, of three counts of failure to file income tax returns under the Virgin Islands income tax laws. She was sentenced to one year in prison on each count, each year to run consecutively. The judge suspended the three-year prison sentence and placed Hansen on probation for three years with numerous and strict conditions. If the defendant fails to comply with the conditions imposed by the Court, the Court could revoke her release and send her to jail.

Hansen is required to file all delinquent income tax returns for the years of conviction and all other years that she did not file income tax returns no later than September 1, 2009. She

is also required to pay all taxes due to the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue or enter into a payment plan and make payments to the Virgin Island Bureau of Internal Revenue.

In addition, Hansen must perform 600 hours of community service at the direction of the probation office.

Hansen must also make full financial disclosure to the probation office and that information will be disclosed to the U.S. Attorney.

Hansen must report all income of any type to the probation office.

Hansen is prohibited from making any purchases or sales of assets without reporting to the probation office.

Hansen may not incur any credit or debt of any type without permission of the probation office.

In imposing its sentence the Court noted that Hansen had served as a senator and was duty bound to serve the public, and that she had failed the public by not complying with the law and filing her income tax returns.

Hansen acknowledged that she violated the law and that she should have filed her income tax returns. She told the Court that she apologized to the people of the Virgin Islands for violating the law and that she would make it right.

U.S. Attorney Murphy stated that the U.S. Attorney's Office and the V.I. Attorney General, in conjunction with the V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue and Internal Revenue Service, are taking aggressive enforcement action to address the wilful failure to file required income tax returns and tax evasion.

"Every person, especially those sworn to serve the people as public servants, should take notice that every case is being reviewed for possible tax evasion and failure to file." Murphy said. "Every resident of the Virgin Islands, whose income meets the reporting requirements, has

an obligation to file an income tax return and pay his/her fair share of the tax burden. Good public services, schools, hospitals, roads, sewers, police and fire services need the support of all taxpayers equally. Failing to pay income taxes that are due is cheating fellow citizens of the Virgin Islands, not just the Government of the Virgin Islands.”

As Judge Savage said during the sentencing, defendant Hansen’s failure to file her income tax returns and pay her income taxes as due increased the tax burden on other Virgin Islanders and decreased the services that the Virgin Islands Government could provide to the people of the Virgin Islands, and this hurt the people of the Virgin Islands, Murphy said.

U.S. Attorney Murphy thanked the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their dedicated efforts to investigate and enforce the income tax laws of the Virgin Islands. The case was prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Murphy.