



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**EVANSVILLE MAN SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE TAX  
RETURNS, FILING FALSE CLAIMS WITH IRS, AND FORGING  
UNITED STATES TREASURY CHECKS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that MICHAEL G. TITZER, 52, Evansville, Indiana, was sentenced to 16 months months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his guilty pleas to filing false income tax returns, filing false claims with the IRS and forging United States Treasury checks. This case was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Secret Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

TITZER plead guilty to the three charges against him on March 19 of this year. According to facts presented in court at that time, TITZER had been in the business of

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TITZER-2

preparing tax returns for approximately 20 years. TITZER operated a tax return preparation business known as Income Taxes & More between 1998 and 2000. He previously owned three Jackson Hewitt tax preparation franchises until he was sued by the company in 1999. Between early 1998 and mid-2000, TITZER prepared and filed at least 36 false tax returns in the names of family members, clients and former clients, unbeknownst to them. By doing so, he fraudulently obtained over \$62,000.00 in tax returns, in the form of United States Treasury tax refund checks, upon which he forged the endorsements and converted them to his own personal use. In addition, in December 2002, TITZER, while being investigated civilly by the Internal Revenue Service regarding his own personal income tax returns, filed false 1998 and 1999 income tax returns in his own name. TITZER failed to report over \$90,000.00 in income and over \$33,000.00 in income tax on those two returns.

Roger Wirth, Special Agent in Charge of the Indianapolis Field Office, IRS Criminal Investigation, says that "Investigations of abusive and fraudulent return preparers in Indiana have more than doubled in the past year. Abusive return preparers cheat not only the government and their clients, but also, all honest taxpayers and return preparers."

According to Assistant United States Attorney Susan Heckard Dowd, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed 2 years supervised release following TITZER's release from imprisonment. TITZER was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$62,939.99. In addition, he must cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in filing all returns and paying all tax which he owes on his personal returns.

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