

United States Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DETROIT, MICHIGAN

United States Attorney Jeffrey Collins and Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Mark Kroczynski, announced that on June 29, 2004, Trezvant D. Woods, 32, of Detroit, Michigan was arraigned on charges stemming from a June 9, 2004, indictment on 31 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false income tax return.

According to the indictment, during 2000 and 2001, Mr. Woods knowingly prepared fraudulent tax returns for at least 21 different individuals. He created income and, in some cases, dependants, in order to maximize the earned income credit. The amount of false earned income credit totaled over \$46,000.

Aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false income tax return is in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7306 (2). Each count of conviction carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is only a charge and not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Collins commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal

Investigation for their work in this investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Elizabeth A. Stafford is prosecuting the case.