



U.S. Department of Justice

Southern District of Indiana

United States Attorney

10 West Market Street

(317)226-6333

*Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

TDD (317)226-5438

FAX NUMBERS:

Criminal (317)226-6125

Administration (317)226-5176

Civil (317)226-5027

FLU (317) 226-6133

OCDETF(317)226-5953

August 1, 2005

CONTACT PERSONS:

SUSAN W. BROOKS
United States Attorney
(317) 226-6333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**INDIANAPOLIS ACCOUNTANT AND TWO OTHERS
CHARGED IN TAX REFUND SCHEME**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that ROBERT STOUT, 57, CLIFTON JETT, 31, and JAMES JOHNSON, 41, all of Indianapolis, Indiana, were indicted on July 20, 2005, by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for conspiracy to submit false claims to the United States and submission of false claims to the United States, following an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

The indictment alleges that STOUT was an accountant and tax preparer who prepared tax returns for others for filing with the Internal Revenue Service. STOUT operated his accounting and tax preparation business at 1449 North Pennsylvania Street and 1321 North Meridian, in Indianapolis, Indiana. JETT and JOHNSON were associates of STOUT.

The indictment charges that STOUT prepared and caused to be submitted false tax returns to the IRS for JETT, JOHNSON, and persons recruited by JETT and JOHNSON claiming refunds due and owing to the tax payers. The refunds ranged from about \$1,500 to \$6,000 per return. The returns included IRS W-2 income and withholding forms making it appear that the tax payer had worked a various companies and that the companies had withheld taxes on behalf of them. In fact, the persons did not work for the companies, no taxes were withheld, and the tax payer was not entitled to a tax refund or earned income credit as represented on the tax returns. The proceeds of the tax refunds were shared among various members of the conspiracy.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Donna R. Eide, who is prosecuting the case for the government, STOUT, JETT, and JOHNSON face a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing for JETT and JOHNSON was held on July 29, 2005, before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis. STOUT has not yet been arrested and his current whereabouts are unknown.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

###

20050801.stout.wcf.wpd