



The United States Attorney's Office

Eastern District of Louisiana

Press Releases

NEW ORLEANS MAN CHARGED WITH TAX FRAUD

March 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GERALD P. MERCADEL, age 46, a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, was charged in a five-count indictment by a Federal Grand Jury for aiding and abetting the filing of false individual income tax returns, announced U.S. Attorney Jim Letten.

According to the indictment, from April 2001 through May 2002, **MERCADEL** assisted taxpayers in preparing U. S. Individual Income Tax Returns, Forms 1040, along with accompanying Schedules, which were false in that they represented that the taxpayers were entitled to certain deductions or income relating to fictitious businesses.

If convicted, **MERCADEL** faces a maximum term of imprisonment of ten (10) years, a fine of \$250,000.00 and three (3) years of supervised release following any term of imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations Division

U. S. Attorney Letten reiterated that the indictment is merely a charge and that the guilt of the defendant must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Irene González.