



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
August 2, 2007

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

TWO SHREVEPORT MEN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL TAX FRAUD CHARGES

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . Two Shreveport men, who pled guilty to federal tax fraud charges in April of this year, were sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Tom Stagg in U.S. District Court. **SHAWN O'BANNON**, 40, and **EUGENE O'BANNON**, 36, were each **sentenced to 6 months of home confinement. Shawn and Eugene O'Bannon were also jointly ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$16,169.**

An indictment was returned in January charging four defendants, SHAWN and EUGENE O'BANNON, DITA MICHELLE WHITE and ANTONE AUTREY with conspiracy to file false claims. The indictment also charged all four defendants with filing false claims for tax refunds.

Testimony in this case established that the defendants participated in a scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by soliciting, instructing and assisting recruited individuals to falsely claim federal income tax refunds for tax year 2003 by preparing and submitting false federal income tax returns. The defendants created false Form W-2s for the recruited individuals which contained fabricated names of employers and amounts of tax withholdings. The false W-2s and other false receipts were taken to a

commercial tax return preparer, which resulted in the preparation of in excess of 30 false federal income tax returns which claimed refunds to which the recruited individuals were not entitled to receive.

ANTONE AUTREY and **DITA MICHELLE WHITE**, also both of Shreveport, pled guilty to the charges in March and were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Tom Stagg in June. They were each sentenced to 3 months probation. AUTREY was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$5,823 and WHITE was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$17,914.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Martha J. Levardsen.

##