



NEWS RELEASE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

A. COURTNEY COX UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release JULY 30, 2008

METROEAST TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ASSISTING OTHERS IN THE PREPARATION OF FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on July 29, 2008, LUVINA KIDD, age 49, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was sentenced to twenty-seven [27] months imprisonment, followed by one year supervised release for her convictions on sixteen counts of Aiding and Assisting in the Preparation of False Federal Income Tax Returns. KIDD was additionally ordered to pay restitution to the Internal Revenue Service in the amount of \$104,357. KIDD had entered guilty pleas to the offenses on March 21, 2008.

According to evidence submitted to the Court in support of the pleas and sentencing, KIDD held herself out as a professional tax preparer in the Alorton/East St. Louis area and operated "Excellence Income Tax Service." KIDD solicited low-income taxpayers who had little knowledge of the federal tax laws by promising large tax refunds from the Internal Revenue Service. KIDD admitted as part of the plea that she aided and assisted in the preparation of false returns that created large refunds by creating and falsifying her clients' dependents, income sources, income amounts, tax credits, deductions and expenses and sometimes fabricated material items of her clients' tax returns without their knowledge.

The successful prosecution is the result of an investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman Smith.

If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with the tax laws, you may report this activity by contacting the local Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigation Office or by mailing information to: Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888

Please include the following information, if available:

Name and address of the person you are reporting

The taxpayer identification number (social security number for an individual or employer identification number for a business)

A brief description of the alleged violation, including how you became aware of or obtained the information

The years involved

The estimated dollar amount of any unreported income

Your name, address and daytime telephone number

Although you are not required to identify yourself, it is helpful to do so. Your identity can be kept confidential. You may also

be entitled to a reward.