



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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For Immediate Release

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MEN INDICTED ON TAX CHARGES

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 17, 2008, **WILLIAM CUNAGIN**, of Litchfield, Illinois, and **ALLEN OTTENSMEIER**, of Highland, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois, in an eleven count indictment charging them with a variety of criminal activity. **CUNAGIN** and **OTTENSMEIER** are both charged in Count One with Conspiracy to Impede, Impair, Obstruct and Defeat the Functions of the Internal Revenue Service in the Ascertainment, Computation, Assessment, and Collection of Federal Excise Taxes. The violation is alleged to have taken place between September 2002, through on or about September 2006, in Madison County, Illinois. **WILLIAM CUNAGIN** is also charged in Counts Two through Six with Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax and in Counts Seven through Ten with Failure to File Tax Returns. **ALLEN OTTENSMEIER** is charged in Count Eleven with Making a False Statement.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

Counts One through Six and Eleven each carry a maximum penalty of not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of \$10,000.00, or both, and three years of supervised release. Counts Seven through Ten each carry a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment, a fine of \$25,000, and one year of supervised

release.

Information for the indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by Internal Revenue Service. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Norman Smith and Jennifer Hudson.