



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas*

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TAX PREPARER SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE CLAIMS

Little Rock – Jane W. Duke, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today that Arnold Chris Parker, 35, of Trumann, Arkansas, was sentenced on Thursday by U.S. District Judge J. Leon Holmes to serve 27 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Judge Holmes also ordered Parker to pay restitution to the Internal Revenue Service of \$73,887.57.

Parker, a former employee of both H & R Block and Jackson-Hewitt tax return preparations businesses, pled guilty on April 30, 2007, to filing false claims against the United States. Parker admitted that he filed false federal income tax returns for other individuals based upon fraudulent Forms W-2, from false and non-existent employers, also prepared or altered by Parker.

Parker was indicted in March 2006, charged with 16 counts of filing false claims against the United States. The indictment alleged that Parker prepared income tax returns for H & R Block in Trumann, Arkansas in 2002 and for Jackson-Hewitt in Jonesboro, Arkansas in part of 2003. According to the indictment, Parker caused approximately 36 materially false and fraudulent tax returns to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service, claiming inflated tax refunds totaling more than \$150,000.

This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation.

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