



## U.S. Department of Justice

### *United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas*

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#### **FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY EMPLOYEE AND TAX PREPARER SENTENCED ON TAX AND IDENTITY THEFT CHARGES**

**LITTLE ROCK** – Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced that Sharon Meyers-Washington, age, 39, of Little Rock, Arkansas, has been sentenced by U.S. District Judge J. Leon Holmes to serve 42 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Judge Holmes also ordered Meyers-Washington to pay restitution of \$85,807.00 to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Meyers-Washington, a former Case Intake Specialist with the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability, Adjudication and Review, was charged on November 24, 2009, with 24 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, 34 counts of fraudulently using social security numbers, and one count of aggravated identity theft.

On May 24, 2010, Meyers-Washington pled guilty to one count of aggravated identity theft, one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false tax return, and one count of misuse of a social security number. During her plea hearing, Meyers-Washington admitted that she worked as a tax return preparer for Jackson Hewitt for tax years 2005 and 2006 and for JBL Rapid Refunds in 2007. While employed, Meyers-Washington prepared federal tax returns for others that contained fraudulent deductions that they were not entitled to claim. These false items included: fraudulent itemized deductions; false filing status; false dependents; fraudulent earned income credits; fraudulent child tax credits; false child care expenses; and false education credits.

Additionally, Meyers-Washington admitted that from January 2007 through or about June 2008, she looked at and retrieved certain means of identification from the Social Security Administration which exceeded her authority. She then fraudulently used and disclosed this information as part of her tax fraud scheme.

This investigation was conducted by Social Security Administration – OIG and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney George C. Vena prosecuted the case for the United States.

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