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For Immediate Release

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TAX PREPARERS CHARGED WITH PREPARING FRAUDULENT TAX RETURNS

Owner of Angela's Tax Service Indicted

Lafayette, La.: Angela M. Gallow, 45, of Oberlin, La., and Cella "Ceanne" J. Gallow, 59, of Mamou, La., were charged today with conspiracy and assisting in the preparation of fraudulent tax returns, Acting United States Attorney William J. Flanagan announced. An initial appearance for both defendants to appear in U.S. District Court has been scheduled for April 19, 2010.

Angela Gallow worked as the primary tax preparer at Angela's Tax Service in Oberlin, La., a business that she also owns and operates. The indictment alleges that between January and May of 2005, 36 tax returns for the calendar year 2004 were filed by Angela Gallow and Cella Gallow. The returns falsely represented that the taxpayers were entitled to claim Earned Income Credit. All of the false claims included in the indictment represent inflated refunds which were greater than the amounts the clients were legitimately entitled to receive.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000.00 fine, or both, for the conspiracy count, and three years in prison, a \$100,000.00 fine, or both, for each count of assisting the filing of a fraudulent return.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Baton Rouge Office and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

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An indictment is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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