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FORMER LOUISIANA STATE SENATOR CHARLES JONES
SENTENCED FOR TAX EVASION

Shreveport, La.: Charles D. Jones, an attorney and former Louisiana State Senator, was sentenced today to 27 months in a federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today. Jones was also ordered to pay \$305,174.05 in restitution. Today's sentence was imposed by U. S. District Judge Robert G. James.

Jones, 60, of Monroe, La., was convicted after a 7-day trial, prosecuted by AUSAs Mignonne Griffing and Cytheria Jernigan, last August of two counts of filing false tax returns and one count of tax evasion. Court testimony showed that beginning in July 1995 and continuing to December 2003, Jones took various actions in order to evade paying income taxes, including converting legal fees received into cashier's checks and cash and using a nominee to purchase two lots in Ouachita Parish which the defendant paid for in cashier's checks. In addition, in August 2001 and in October 2003, Jones filed individual income tax returns which he knew under-reported his gross receipts and adjusted gross income for tax years 1999 and 2000 by well over \$500,000 and \$50,000, respectively.

United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley stated, "This was a complex scheme that involved hiding large sums of income in cashier's checks and hiding property by placing it in other entities' names. The good citizens of this community work hard every day and pay their taxes.

Jones was an elected official of this community at the same time that he was attempting to make a mockery of the tax laws. This conviction should send a message that there are serious consequences for anyone who commits tax offenses. Together with our IRS partners, we will continue to pursue those who flagrantly abuse the tax laws.”

James C. Lee, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation stated: “The sentencing of Mr. Jones reflects the IRS-Criminal Investigation’s commitment to vigorously investigate and seek prosecution of those individuals who intentionally conceal income and fail to pay the correct amount of income tax. We should not expect the honest taxpayer to foot the bill for those who hide income from the IRS.”

The case was investigated by Special Agent Jude Armand of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, Shreveport Office, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys C. Mignonne Griffing and Cytheria D. Jernigan.

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