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**MONROE BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR
BANKRUPTCY FRAUD**

Harriette King to Spend 27 Months in Federal Prison

MONROE, La. – Harriette Lynne King, 49 of Monroe, La., was sentenced late yesterday afternoon to 27 months in a federal prison for bankruptcy fraud, concealment of property, knowing violation of a bankruptcy law, false statements under penalty of perjury, and false testimony under oath, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today. King was also sentenced to three years of supervised release following her prison term and was ordered to pay \$20,359 in restitution.

King, owner of HL King & Associates, Inc., was convicted at trial in March of 2011. According to trial testimony, King committed numerous criminal violations as a bankruptcy petition preparer for at least three bankruptcy debtors. The testimony revealed that King wrongfully received legal fees and court costs from the debtors after fraudulently representing herself as an attorney. Despite repeated orders from a bankruptcy judge to return all of the money to the debtors, King refused. King committed additional criminal violations when she later filed her own bankruptcy petition, including fraudulently claiming to own property that she did not own and fraudulently omitting debts she was required to disclose as part of the bankruptcy process. She signed her bankruptcy petition under penalty of perjury, verifying that all of the information was true and correct. Subsequently, King lied under oath when questioned about the false information in her bankruptcy petition.

U. S. Attorney Stephanie Finley stated, “Ms. King’s actions were a blatant disrespect for the Bankruptcy Court and bankruptcy laws. Filing for bankruptcy is a serious matter. We hope this case sends a strong message that filing fraudulent claims and making false statements in a bankruptcy proceeding will be prosecuted.”

The case was investigated by the FBI, Monroe Resident Agency, and the United States Trustee's Office. The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Louisiana.

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