



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, October 18, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Tax preparer sentenced for preparing a false tax return

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court in Duluth, a Minnesota tax return preparer was sentenced for preparing a fraudulent tax return for a client. United States District Court Chief Judge Michael J. Davis sentenced Christopher Fredrick Fenske to six months in prison on one count of preparing a false tax return. Fenske was indicted on October 18, 2010, and pleaded guilty on January 4, 2011.

In his plea agreement, Fenske, who prepared tax returns at Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, admitted that on January 26, 2006, he fraudulently increased the amount of the earned income and adjusted gross income on his client's Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, for tax year 2005. This falsification increased the amount of the earned income credit and total refund owed to his client. The estimated tax loss due to this criminal act was \$43,919. In addition, Fenske admitted committing similar fraudulent acts on other clients' returns from 2006 through 2008.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service–Criminal Investigation Division. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann M. Anaya.

###

Per U.S. Department of Justice policy, the U.S. Attorney's Office is not allowed to provide the age and city of residence for defendants charged in criminal tax cases.

