



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL, JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(914) 993-1900, (212) 637-2600**

**CHAPPAQUA CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT ARRESTED
FOR STEALING CLIENTS' TAX REFUND CHECKS**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and RAFAEL PRIETO, the Resident Agent in Charge of the White Plains Office of the United States Secret Service, announced that RANDAL L. KASE was arrested this morning on charges that he misappropriated tax refund checks totaling more than \$223,000 that were due to three of his tax preparation clients. According to a criminal Complaint unsealed today in White Plains federal court:

RANDAL L. KASE is a certified public accountant in Chappaqua, New York, who provided tax return preparation services for his clients. From approximately June 2002 through November 2008, KASE arranged for various IRS tax refund checks for three of his clients to be sent to his own address, without the knowledge or permission of the clients. After receiving the checks, KASE forged his clients' endorsements and deposited the checks into his own bank accounts or used them to pay off personal credit card bills. KASE had repeatedly told one client that the client "broke even", meaning that he would not be receiving a significant tax refund. In total, KASE misappropriated approximately 37 tax refund checks, totaling more than \$223,000.

The Complaint charges RANDAL L. KASE with one count of forging endorsements on Treasury checks and one count of mail fraud. If convicted on Count One, KASE faces a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross pecuniary loss or gain derived from the offense. If convicted on Count Two, KASE faces a maximum sentence of 30 years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$1 million or twice the gross pecuniary loss or gain derived from the offense.

KASE, 55, resides in Chappaqua, New York.

KASE was presented in White Plains federal court, 300 Quarropas Street, 4th Floor, this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge LISA MARGARET SMITH.

Mr. DASSIN praised the efforts of the Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, and thanked them for their work in this case.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant United States Attorney JASON P.W. HALPERIN is in charge of this prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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