



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2009

**MISSISSIPPI BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED FOR
WILLFULLY FAILING TO FILE TAX RETURNS**

Gulfport, Miss - U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton, and Michael J. DePalma, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, New Orleans Field Office, announced that **RICHARD K. BUCKMAN**, age 40, of Gulfport, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Sul Ozerden to serve 8 months in federal prison for willfully failing to file federal income tax returns for 2002 and 2003. Buckman was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$187,714.81 and to perform 80 hours of community service.

Buckman was indicted by a federal grand jury on September 12, 2007 on charges of willfully failing to file federal income tax returns for 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7203. According to the indictment, Buckman received gross income of almost one million dollars during the four tax years covered by the indictment, and failed to file in any of those years even though he was required by law to do so. On February 27, 2008, Buckman pled guilty to two counts of willfully failing to file federal income tax returns.

"Today's sentence proves that the legal system works. People who intentionally fail to file required federal tax returns subject themselves to severe civil and criminal penalties. Our tax system treats this offense seriously, since willful non-compliance increases the tax burden for the vast majority of our citizens who fully meet their tax obligations. IRS Criminal Investigation will continue to work to uphold the public's trust in our nation's system of voluntary compliance," stated IRS CI Special Agent in Charge Michael J. DePalma.

U.S. Attorney Lampton commended the investigative efforts of the Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mike Hurst.

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