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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 1, 2009

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Lorton Woman Convicted of Failing to Pay Withholding Taxes to IRS

(**Alexandria, Va**) - Celina V. Lord, age 49, of Lorton, Va., was convicted by a federal jury in Alexandria of failing to pay more than \$330,000 in taxes withheld from employees' paychecks.

John A. DiCicco, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division; Dana J. Boente, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and C. Andre Martin, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation's Washington, D.C., Field Office, made the announcement after the verdict was announced and accepted by United States District Judge James C. Cacheris.

According to court documents and evidence at trial, Lord was the chief financial officer for ASSC, Inc., a company that provided a variety of services such as janitorial supplies, waste management and laundry services. From June 2002 through June 2004, Lord and the president of the company, Linda R. Smith, age 46, of Lorton, Va., failed to pay the Social Security, Medicare and federal income taxes due that had been withheld from the wages of ASSC employees. Lord took on the title of president and managed the day-to-day operations at ASSC for much of that period while Smith was unable to work because of personal and family health problems.

Lord will be sentenced on Sept. 29, 2009, and faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison – five years for each of the six counts of failing to account for, collect and pay over employment taxes. On June 23, 2009, Smith pled guilty to one count of failing to account for, collect and pay over employment taxes. She is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 11, 2009, and faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

This case was investigated by the IRS Criminal Investigation division. Assistant United States Attorney Charles Connolly and Trial Attorney Caryn Mark from the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice are prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov>.

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