

Department of Justice



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HOT SPRINGS PREPARER SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS

Fort Smith, AR – December 7, 2009 – Deborah Groom, United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas, announced today that Shawn L. Parker, of Hot Springs, Arkansas was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Robert T. Dawson to serve 18 months in prison, followed by one year of supervised release. Judge Dawson also ordered Parker to pay a fine of \$1,000 and restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of \$96,391.

Parker pled guilty on August 11, 2009, to aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false federal income tax return for tax year 2004. Parker, while working as a tax preparer for Jackson Hewitt in Hot Springs, prepared returns for others that claimed deductions or credits in amounts that the individuals were not entitled to claim. The clients' tax returns contained deductions for false or inflated Schedule A Itemized Deductions, false exemptions, and fraudulent credits.

During the plea hearing Parker admitted that his actions resulted in an intended tax loss to the United States. As part of his sentence, Parker was ordered to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$96,391 that was a result of the tax loss.

“Individuals who prepare tax returns for others have a responsibility to file accurate returns for their clients,” stated Christopher Pikelis, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation – Nashville Field Office. “IRS will not tolerate dishonest tax preparers and violations of this nature will be aggressively investigated by the IRS.”

This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation. Department of Justice Tax Division Attorney Robert A. Kemins and Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew W. Fleming represented the government.

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