



*United States Attorney
District of New Jersey*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2010

www.justice.gov/usao/nj

CONTACT: Rebekah Carmichael
Office of Public Affairs
(973) 645-2888

**FORMER HAWTHORNE COUNCILWOMAN SENTENCED TO
PROBATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD**

NEWARK, N.J. – Former Hawthorne, New Jersey councilwoman Shirley J. Shortway-English was sentenced today to a year of probation for fraudulently obtaining approximately \$17,000 in social security disability payments, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

On January 20, 2010, Shortway-English, 57, pleaded guilty before United States District Judge William H. Walls to a one-count Information charging her with theft of government funds. Judge Walls also imposed the sentence today in Newark federal court.

At her plea hearing, Shortway-English admitted that between January 2007 and December 2009, she applied for and received approximately \$17,000 in social security disability payments based on false claims that she was unable to work. However, during the time she claimed disability, she worked at Shortway's Barn, a Hawthorne restaurant owned by her family.

In addition to the term of probation, Shortway-English was ordered to make full restitution to the Social Security Administration.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Walls consulted the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the New York Field Division of the Social Security Administration's Office of the Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Edward J. Ryan, for the investigation of this case along with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The Government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric T. Kanefsky of the Office's Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

10-118

###

Defense Counsel: Joseph T Afflito, Sr., Wayne, New Jersey