

**NEWS RELEASE:**

Guy A. Lewis, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Hector M. Pesquera, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miami Field Division, and Jose Marrero, Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigation Division, Internal Revenue Service, Southeast Region, Plantation announced today that **CHERYL POINDEXTER, 53**, of Studio City, California, was sentenced in connection with her guilty plea to conspiracy to launder criminal proceeds traced to FINANCIAL FEDERATED TITLE & TRUST. **POINDEXTER** earlier acknowledged laundering at least \$197,000 in fraud funds on behalf of her boyfriend, Gary Pierce. District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley sentenced **POINDEXTER** to a period of twelve (12) months incarceration in the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, restitution in the amount of \$759,173.20, and 3 years of supervised release.

**AMERICAN BENEFITS SERVICES**, a corporate defendant, was sentenced to pay approximately \$129,000,000 in restitution, 5 years' probation and a special assessment of \$7,200 in connection with its guilty pleas earlier entered in connection with Case Number 99-8125-Cr-Hurley.

Mr. Lewis commended the efforts of Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents Gary Van Eerde, Anthony L. Yanketis, Gary Hellmer, and Stephen Lucchesi; and Internal Revenue Service Special Agents Klaus Hurme and Suzanne Kalwara for their detailed efforts in uncovering the massive scheme that led to the indictment. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ellen Cohen and Steve Carlton in West Palm Beach, Florida.