



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

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Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

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TWO SENTENCED IN TAX FRAUD CASES

Former tax return preparers given prison time

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . Two individuals have been sentenced in separate tax fraud cases involving the filing of false income tax returns, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced.

The first case involves **ANTHONY SOLOMON**, age 36, of Shreveport, Louisiana, who was sentenced last week by United States District Judge Tom Stagg in federal court in Shreveport, to spend **21 months in prison**, followed by one year of supervised release for aiding in the preparation of false income tax returns. SOLOMON was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$43,337 to the Internal Revenue Service. SOLOMON pleaded guilty to the charge in March.

A bill of information was returned against SOLOMON in February charging him with one count of aiding in the preparation of false income tax returns. While working for a tax return preparation business in Shreveport, SOLOMON assisted in the preparation of a federal income tax return for the calendar year 2004 which contained false information. The tax return claimed dependents which the taxpayer did not actually have and other false information which improperly increased the taxpayer's refund, without the taxpayer's knowledge.

The second case involves **GLEND A FAY E ELLIOTT**, age 46, of Monroe, Louisiana. ELLIOTT was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Robert G. James to spend **two months in prison and six months in a halfway house**, followed by three years of supervised release for conspiracy to aid and assist in the preparation of false tax returns. ELLIOTT was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$32,053. ELLIOTT pleaded guilty in February.

ELLIOTT and two others were indicted in November 2004 and charged with conspiracy to aid and assist in the preparation and presentation of false tax returns in connection with a scheme to obtain money through tax refunds which they were not entitled to receive by preparing and filing false and fraudulent tax returns. ELLIOTT was employed at Mr. Ed's Tax Service in Monroe, Louisiana while carrying out this scheme. The defendants collected fees from customers for preparing and filing their tax returns.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

These cases were investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and were prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Donald Washington and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ross Owen and Earl Campbell.

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