



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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## **SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY IS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR FEDERAL CRIMINAL TAX VIOLATION**

### *Blackman to serve 10 months for failure to file tax returns*

SHREVEPORT, La.: GORDON N. BLACKMAN, JR., a Shreveport attorney, was sentenced today to 10 months in a federal prison to be followed by one year of supervised release, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington, along with Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Criminal Investigation Michael J. DePalma, announced today. Blackman, 50, plead guilty last September for failing to file an income tax return for calendar year 2004. Today's sentence was imposed by United States Magistrate Judge Mark L. Hornsby.

Blackman was initially charged with failing to file federal income tax returns for 2002, 2003 and 2004. After reaching a plea agreement with the Government, Blackman entered a guilty plea to failing to file his 2004 return. Blackman had a gross income of \$189,877 in 2004.

In handing down today's sentence, Magistrate Judge Hornsby noted that Blackman had not timely filed federal income tax returns from 1994 through 2004. Blackman was ordered to pay restitution to the Internal Revenue Service in the amount of \$322,886.17, the total tax due for the late returns.

Donald W. Washington, United States Attorney, stated: "Taxpayers do not have the right to disregard and violate federal tax laws. The obligation to pay taxes due to the United States has been established under federal law for decades. When one evades the payment of income taxes, a greater burden is placed upon those who lawfully pay taxes due to the

United States Treasury. This office is committed to aggressively pursuing those taxpayers who willfully fail to file their tax returns and evade taxes.”

Michael J. De Palma, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, stated: "It is a duty of the country's citizenry to pay their fair share of taxes. The prosecution of individuals who intentionally conceal income and fail to file and pay their taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system. Special Agents of IRS Criminal Investigation work tirelessly with the United States Attorney's Office to bring these individuals to justice. We should not expect the honest taxpayer to foot the bill for those who hide income from the IRS."

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Shreveport Office, and is being prosecuted by First Assistant United States Attorney Bill Flanagan.

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