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TAX PREPARER SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Owner of "Tetia's Timely Tax" gets prison time

SHREVEPORT, La. - United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced that Letitia C. Scott, 41, of Dallas, Tx, was sentenced today for filing fraudulent claims for federal income tax refunds. Scott was sentenced to 27 months in prison and three years of supervised release. She was also ordered to pay \$69,590 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service.

In 2006, Letitia Scott, owner and operator of "Tetia's Timely Tax" in Shreveport, prepared and electronically filed 29 fraudulent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 1040 Returns for the 2006 tax year. Every return included false wages resulting in a false or inflated Earned Income Tax Credit. Scott was indicted by a federal grand jury in September 2010, on 29 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation or presentation of fraudulent tax returns.

U. S. Attorney Stephanie Finley stated, "Tax preparers who file fraudulent tax returns are taking advantage of the system. Anyone who chooses to willfully aid or assist in the

preparing or filing of false tax returns will be prosecuted for this serious crime, punishable under Federal law.”

James C. Lee, Special Agent in Charge, IRS – Criminal Investigation, stated that “IRS-CI will continue to investigate those return preparers who choose to file false tax returns in order to collect refunds that neither they nor their clients are entitled to receive.”

The case was investigated by Special Agent Jude Armand, Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Earl M. Campbell.

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