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Stephanie A. Finley
United States Attorney
(337) 262-6618
mona.hardwick@usdoj.gov

LOCAL ATTORNEY ARRESTED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Over \$9,000,000 Sought in Refunds Based on False Returns

Monroe, La: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced that Francis C. Broussard, 53, of West Monroe, Louisiana, was arrested yesterday on charges of filing false tax returns. Broussard is an attorney practicing in West Monroe.

The indictment, returned on September 19, 2012, charges that Broussard filed four false tax returns in early 2009. The first false return that Broussard is alleged to have filed was for tax year 2008. For that return, he sought a refund of \$2,026,100. A few days later Broussard is alleged to have filed a false return for tax year 2005, seeking a refund of \$2,315,423. A few days after that Broussard is alleged to have submitted a false return for tax year 2006 seeking a refund of \$2,293,007. Finally, Broussard is alleged to have submitted a false return for tax year 2007, seeking a refund of \$3,149,163.

If convicted, Broussard faces a maximum possible penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both on each of the false claim charges.

An indictment is merely an accusation and all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States C. Mignonne Griffing.

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