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**FORMER LOUISIANA STATE SENATOR CHARLES JONES
CONVICTED OF TAX CHARGES**

Filing False Returns and Tax Evasion

Shreveport, La.: Charles D. Jones, 60, of Monroe, La., an attorney and former Louisiana State Senator, was convicted by a federal jury on two counts of filing false tax returns and one count of tax evasion, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today.

Trial testimony showed that beginning in July 1995 and continuing to December 2003, Jones took various actions in order to evade paying income taxes, including converting legal fees received into cashier's checks and cash and using a nominee to purchase two lots in Ouachita Parish which the defendant paid for in cashier's checks. In addition, in August 2001 and in October 2003, Jones filed individual income tax returns which he knew under-reported his gross receipts and adjusted gross income for 1999 and 2000.

Jones is scheduled for sentencing on December 6, 2010. He faces a maximum sentence of three years in prison, a \$100,000 fine, or both, on each of the two counts of filing a false return, and up to five years and a \$100,000 fine on the tax evasion charge.

United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley stated, "This conviction serves as a reminder that individuals who break the tax laws face serious consequences. Together with our IRS partners, we will continue to pursue tax cheats and those who flagrantly abuse the tax laws."

“The law is clear on the issue of taxable income and who is required to file and pay taxes: there is no gray area on the subject and no one is above the law,” said Michael J. DePalma, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation. “We should not forget that the ultimate victims in tax fraud cases are the people of the United States – those honest taxpayers who diligently file tax returns each year.”

The case was investigated by Special Agent Jude Armand of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, Shreveport Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys C. Mignonne Griffing and Cytheria D. Jernigan.

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