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PRISON PSYCHOLOGIST SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS AND MORE PRISON EMPLOYEES CHARGED FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN TAX FRAUD SCHEME

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced today the sentence of Daniel Patrick Goodheart, age 38, and the filing of charges against Albion Crowell, age 34, Constance Shoots, age 56, and Bridgett Williams, age 37, for their roles in a prison tax fraud scheme at the Okeechobee Correctional Institution.

U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich today sentenced Goodheart to a term of five years' imprisonment for conspiring to commit mail fraud and wire fraud and conspiring to defraud the United States by filing false and fraudulent tax returns. Goodheart was convicted after a jury trial in February 2008. The sentence was the maximum allowed under the statute.

According to testimony and evidence presented at trial, Goodheart worked as a Psychologist Specialist at the Okeechobee Correctional Institution ("OCI") from September 2001 until May 2003. While employed at OCI, Goodheart accessed the Florida Department of Corrections ("DOC") Intranet database to obtain the names and social security numbers of inmates located at other state correctional facilities. Goodheart then provided the names and social security numbers he obtained from the DOC intranet

database to inmates located at OCI. The inmates at OCI used the names and social security numbers to generate false and fraudulent Federal Income Tax forms. The inmates then utilized the defendant and other OCI employees to smuggle the false and fraudulent tax returns out of the prison, and then mail them to the Internal Revenue Service.

Further, as part of the ongoing investigation of the fraudulent tax scheme at the OCI, informations were filed today against Albion Crowell; Constance Shoots, who was the OCI librarian; and Bridgett Williams, who was a contractor at the OCI. They are charged with conspiring to defraud the United States. They each face a maximum penalty of up to five years' imprisonment.

In total, the conspiracy at OCI obtained approximately \$902,487.87 from the IRS.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony E. Porcelli.

An information is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until proven guilty.
