



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 10, 2008**

GREEN COUNTY SUPERVISOR CHARGED WITH BRIBERY AND PERJURY

Dunn Lampton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, Michael J. DePalma, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Frederick Brink, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jackson Division, and Mississippi State Auditor Stacey Pickering announced that EARNEST HOLDER, the District Three County Supervisor for Greene County, Mississippi, was charged in a two count federal indictment with (1) a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666, alleging that he did corruptly solicit, demand, accept and agree to accept a thing of value from a person, intending to be influenced and rewarded in connection with the business of Greene County, Mississippi, and (2) with a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1623, that is, perjury before a federal grand jury.

HOLDER appeared today before United States Magistrate Judge Michael T. Parker in federal district court in

Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He was released on \$20,000 bond.

The charges against HOLDER carry a maximum possible sentence of fifteen years imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$500,000, and a period of supervised release of up to three years. United States Attorney Lampton stressed that the charges represent an accusation only and all defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence.

Mr. Lampton praised the efforts of all the federal law enforcement agencies involved as well as the State Auditor's Office for their diligent work in the investigation of this case. State Auditor Stacey Pickering said "our office continues to work closely with the FBI, IRS, Department of Homeland Security and United States Attorney's Office in investigating cases where fraud involving Mississippi tax dollars may have been committed - such crimes will not be tolerated, and our office remains committed to identifying and investigating those violations."