



Department of Justice

United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil
Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 23, 2010
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/WIW

CONTACT: JOHN W. VAUDREUIL
PHONE: (608) 264-5158
TTY: (608) 264-5006

BELOIT TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Dawn M. Shick, 49, of South Beloit, Ill., was sentenced today in federal court in Madison by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb, to six months in prison and fined \$5,000. Shick pleaded guilty on September 15 to filing false tax returns for tax payers for the year 2007.

Shick operated "DMS Tax Service, LLC" in Beloit, Wis. For tax year 2007, Shick prepared and filed 36 false income tax returns for individuals and businesses. These false returns resulted in a total loss to the government (lower taxes paid and inflated refunds) of \$76,057. The government's proof at the guilty plea hearing established that the taxpayers were unaware that Shick was changing their tax returns.

In sentencing Shick, Judge Crabb stated that a custodial sentence was warranted because, by filing false tax returns, Shick benefitted and gained an unfair competitive business advantage with those clients over honest tax preparers. The Court further stated that Shick was stealing from the government to make her look better with her clients and the Court couldn't even imagine how a tax preparer would decide not to follow the law and would simply play with the numbers.

United States Attorney Vaudreuil stated today's sentencing was the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison office of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

###