



# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown  
Eastern District of California

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## **INDICTMENTS UNSEALED IN SCHEMES TO DEFRAUD THE IRS BY FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS**

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced the unsealing of two indictments charging three Sacramento residents in schemes to defraud the IRS by filing false tax returns claiming tax refunds.

These cases are the product of extensive investigations by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Samantha Spangler, who is prosecuting both cases, a federal grand jury returned an 18-count indictment on April 9, 2009, charging TOBBIYON JERMAINE SIMON, 35, and MONIQUE NICOLE JASPAR, 32, both of Sacramento, with conspiracy to defraud the government with respect to claims for tax refunds, and with 17 counts of filing false claims for tax returns.

From January to March 2007, SIMON and JASPAR prepared false IRS Forms W-2 using personal information from co-conspirators and unlawfully obtained information of legitimate employers who did not employ the co-conspirators. They then prepared and filed fraudulent federal income tax returns for tax year 2006 for the co-conspirators: JASPAR through her employment at a tax preparation firm in Sacramento and SIMON via the Internet. The fraudulent tax returns sought approximately \$182,553 in refunds. SIMON and JASPAR each expected to receive a portion of the refund as payment for their role in the scheme. The IRS, however, denied most of the refund claims and paid out only about \$21,900 in refunds.

The indictment was unsealed yesterday upon the arrest of JASPAR. She was arraigned yesterday before United States Magistrate Judge Dale A. Drozd and released on a \$25,000 unsecured bond. Her next court appearance is June 12, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. before U.S. District Court Judge Edward J. Garcia. SIMON remains at large.

On April 23, 2009, an 11-count indictment was unsealed following the arrest of VICK ANTHONY WEST, 42, of Sacramento. A federal grand jury returned the indictment on March 19, 2009, charging WEST with conspiracy to defraud the government with respect to claims and 10 counts of filing false claims. Two of those are allegedly WEST's personal returns, while the other eight were filed by co-conspirators.

The indictment alleges that, from January 2005 until January 2007, WEST conspired with other people to create fraudulent IRS Forms W-2 and in order to file false federal income tax returns seeking refunds to which they were not entitled. He allegedly expected to receive a portion of the refund as payment for supplying the false Forms W-2. WEST and his

co-conspirators attempted to obtain \$372,885 from the IRS in refunds, but the IRS denied most of the claims. Instead, the actual loss amounted to \$50,382.

WEST appeared yesterday before Magistrate Judge Drozd for arraignment. He was detained pending the disposition of the case. His next court appearance is scheduled for May 26, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. before U.S. District Court Judge John A. Mendez.

The maximum statutory penalty for the conspiracy charges is 10 years in prison. The filing-false-claims charges each carry a maximum statutory penalty of five years in prison. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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