

Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

July 21, 2003

Former Legal Secretary Convicted of State Tax Evasion; Receives Five-Year Prison Sentence

Bay Minette, July 21, 2003—A former legal secretary was convicted July 18, 2003, after pleading guilty to a felony charge of state income tax evasion before Baldwin County Judge Charles Partin. The felony conviction carried a five-year prison sentence.

Brenda Broughton Rhames, 49, of 1301 West 7th Street, Bay Minette, Ala., pleaded guilty to one charge of state income tax evasion on income embezzled from a Mobile law firm during a four-year period, from 1997 through 2000.

The criminal charge against Rhames resulted from her failure to report the embezzled funds as additional personal income on her Alabama income tax returns. All income, even illegal income, must be reported on Alabama income tax returns.

Judge Partin sentenced Rhames to serve five years in prison, complete four years of supervised probation, and pay \$300 in fines. Rhames' state sentencing will run concurrently with a federal sentence she is now serving.

Commenting on the state tax conviction, State Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle commended the Baldwin County district attorney's office, the Baldwin County Sheriff's department, and Alabama Department of Revenue Investigations Division for their efforts in the handling of the case.

-30-

Contact for more information:

ADOR Media Affairs Office: Carla A. Snellgrove or Carolyn Blackstock: (334) 242-1390; FAX: (334) 242-0550

www.ador.state.al.us