



NEWS RELEASE

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A.G. KING ANNOUNCES FELONY CONVICTION OF TAX PREPARER

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(MONTGOMERY)—Attorney General Troy King announced the conviction and sentencing this morning of a former Morgan County tax preparer for income tax crimes. Gina Wilhite Thrasher, 45, of Falkville, pleaded guilty to two felony counts of willful attempt to evade or defeat a part of the Alabama income tax.

Morgan County Circuit Judge Glenn Thompson sentenced her to five years on each count, which were suspended, and ordered her to serve five years of supervised probation. During her probation period, she is prohibited from assisting in the preparation of any tax returns. The sentences are to be served concurrently. A restitution hearing will be held at a later date, which is not yet set.

Thrasher operated a bookkeeping and tax service called APM Accounting and Tax Service in Falkville. The allegations of her crimes came to light during an Alabama Revenue Department audit of one of Thrasher's customers. That client's current accountant told the Revenue auditor that the client had never received a refund, nor had some others who had their returns prepared by Thrasher. The case was investigated by the Revenue Department and referred to Attorney General King's office for further review and prosecution.

"Income tax crimes are a serious offense committed against the State of Alabama, our taxpaying citizens, and the children and families of our state who lose vital funds needed for schools and other services," said Attorney General King. "Tax preparers have an obligation, to their clients as well as to the State, to provide honest services. This conviction should serve as a warning to others that the State of Alabama will not tolerate corrupt and fraudulent tax filings and preparations."

State Revenue Commissioner Tim Russell echoed these remarks saying, "Tax evasion costs our citizens millions of tax dollars each year in the form of unreported taxes and fraudulent refund claims. The prosecution and conviction of such tax crimes bring attention front and center to the seriousness of these offenses, and hopefully will deter others from committing similar crimes," said Russell.

Attorney General King commended Assistant Attorneys General Bill Lisenby, chief of the Attorney General's Public Corruption and White Collar Crime Division, James Rutter, Noel Barnes, as well as Chief Investigator Eddie Crumbley, Special Agent Angela Aldridge and Auditor Karen Vinson, all of the Alabama Department of Revenue. State income tax revenues are earmarked for the Special Education Trust Fund.