



Department of Justice

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Northern District of California

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**HAYWARD WOMAN ARRESTED FOR FILING FALSE CLAIMS, OBSTRUCTING THE IRS AND
AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT**

Defendant Offered Witnesses Televisions For False Testimony

OAKLAND, Calif. – A Hayward, Calif., resident was arrested yesterday after being charged in a 25-count indictment with wire fraud, false claims, identify theft and obstructing the IRS, United States Attorney Melinda Haag and Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Scott O’Briant announced.

According to the indictment, at some date prior to January 2008, Claudia Robinson, 38, obtained personal identifying information of other individuals, including the person’s name and Social Security number. Robinson used the personal identifying information that she obtained to file false 2007 U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, claiming the persons received income related to a fictitious business. Robinson further claimed the individuals were entitled to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC) and at times added dependants to the false tax returns in order to fraudulently inflate the EIC payment. Robinson filed the false claims electronically from her residence and directed the IRS to wire the fraudulent refund to debit cards she obtained in the name of other individuals.

Robinson is also charged with offering to provide a television to a witness whom Robinson asked to give false or misleading testimony regarding the investigation and

attempted to conceal and take a bag that Robinson falsely claimed had homework in it, but actually contained false tax returns and correspondence related to the ongoing investigation.

The maximum statutory penalty for each count of Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C § 287 is 20 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million; for each count of False Claims, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C § 287 is five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000; for each count of Obstructing Due Administration of IRS, in violation of Title 26, U.S.C § 7212(a) is three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of Aggravated Identity Theft, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C § 1028A(a)(1) carries a 2 year mandatory minimum sentence that must run consecutive to the other pending charges. However, any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence, 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

Thomas Newman is the Assistant U.S. Attorneys who is prosecuting this case with the assistance of Kathy Tat. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

Please note, an indictment contains only allegations against an individual and, as with all defendants, Robinson must be presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Further Information:

Case #: CR 11-671 SBA

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at www.usdoj.gov/usao/can.

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at www.cand.uscourts.gov.

All press inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office should be directed to Jack Gillund at (415) 436-6599 or by e-mail at Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov.

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