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Oregon State Board of
Tax Practitioners

PRESS RELEASE

To: News Media
From: Oregon State Board of Tax Practitioners
Date: April 10, 2009
Re: Cease and Desist Order Issued Against Carol M. Jones for Unlicensed Tax Preparation

Oregon State Board of Tax Practitioners announced that legal action against an unlicensed Lane County tax preparer should serve as a warning to consumers: many of her customers are now being audited for receiving excessive tax refunds.

The Board on Thursday issued a Cease and Desist Order against Carol M. Jones of Lowell for continuing to break the law for preparing personal income taxes for a fee without a license.

In 2007, Jones violated the law 534 times by preparing, advising or assisting in the preparation of personal income tax returns for about 450 people.

Last November, the Board assessed \$68,879.40 in costs and civil penalties against Jones for operating without a license.

Despite the order, Jones has continued to prepare personal income tax returns.

As a result of the returns filed by Jones, many of these taxpayers are being audited by the Oregon Department of Revenue. These taxpayers are responsible for the underpayment of tax, interest, and penalties that may be imposed by the Department of Revenue. Many of the folks for whom Carol Jones prepared returns have already spent the refunds received.

The Board encourages all taxpayers to use a licensed tax professional to protect themselves against costly errors as well as to ensure that the person preparing their taxes meet minimum qualifications for competency and adhere to professional and ethical standards. Anyone wishing to review the license status of an individual or who has a complaint about the preparation of their personal income tax return(s) should contact the Board at (503) 378-4034 or refer to the Board's Web site at www.oregon.gov/OTPB.

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