Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release March 30, 2006

Mobile County Man Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement and State Tax Evasion Charges

Mobile—A Mobile man pleaded guilty March 23 in Mobile County Circuit Court to multiple state tax charges filed by the Alabama Department of Revenue as the result of a joint investigation conducted by the Mobile District Attorney's Office and the department.

Mark Jordan Brewer, 56, of 4825 Janice Drive, Mobile, Ala., pleaded guilty Thursday, March 23, 2006, before Mobile County Circuit Judge Ferrill D. McRae to one count of theft of property and multiple felony counts of tax evasion and/or filing perjured state income tax returns.

Brewer, who worked for a Mobile equipment company, was found guilty March 23, 2006, of embezzling up to \$101,947 from the company during 1996 through 2002.

Brewer was also convicted on state income tax charges for tax years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002. The criminal tax charges against Brewer resulted from his failure to report the embezzled funds as additional personal income on his 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 Alabama income tax returns. All income, even illegal income, must be reported on Alabama income tax returns.

According to court records, the total tax liability resulting from the state tax charges exceeds \$6,000.

A sentencing hearing is set April 28, 2006, in Mobile County Circuit Court before Judge McRae. Brewer could receive up to five years in jail and/or a fine of \$100,000 for each count of tax evasion and up to three years in jail and/or a fine of \$100,000 for each count of filing a perjured Alabama tax return.

Commenting on the conviction, State Revenue Commissioner Tom Surtees commended the Mobile County District Attorney's Office on the successful prosecution of the case. "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 Surtees.

Individual income tax revenues are earmarked for the Education Trust Fund (EFT) and are a major funding component of the EFT.

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