MURPHY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	**Case. No.** 26-20075 BCL-atc
v.	)	
	)	**18 U.S.C. § 371**
YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS, and	)	**26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)**
RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS,	)	**26 U.S.C. § 7602(2)**
	)	
Defendants.	)	

INDICTMENT

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

At all times material to this indictment:

Introduction

1. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** was a tax return preparer who prepared and filed federal income tax returns for individuals. She also prepared and filed her own personal income tax returns.

2. Defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** was a tax return preparer who prepared and filed federal income tax returns for individuals. He also prepared and filed his own personal income tax returns.

3. DYM Financial Services was an income tax return preparation business owned and operated by defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS**.

The Internal Revenue Service's E-Filing System

4. The Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) e-filing system is a program that allows the filing of federal income tax returns online via the internet. The IRS issues identification numbers to firms that are authorized to file federal income tax returns via the e-filing

system, and this number must be used by the firm when filing a tax return using the e-filing system. This identification number is referred to as an “Electronic Filing Identification Number” or EFIN. A “Preparer Tax Identification Number”, or PTIN, must be obtained by all tax return preparers who are compensated for preparing or assisting in the preparation of a federal tax return. PTINs are issued by the IRS, and a paid income tax preparer must include this number on the federal income tax returns he or she prepares and files with the IRS. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** had an EFIN at one time, but that EFIN was revoked by the IRS, and she was expelled from the e-filing program in 2014. Defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS’** firm, DYM Financial Services, however, did have an EFIN and was therefore permitted to file federal tax returns using the e-filing system. Defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** also had a PTIN in the name of “Ricky Matthews.”

<u>The Federal Fuel Tax Credit</u>

5. The federal government imposes an excise tax on fuels. The purpose of the excise tax is to fund highway construction. During the times relevant to this indictment the excise tax on gasoline was 18.3 cents a gallon and 24.3 cents a gallon on diesel fuel. These taxes are included in the purchase price and are thus paid at the time the buyer of the fuel purchases it.

6. The “Credit for Federal Tax Paid on Fuels” (the fuel tax credit) is a tax credit for fuel purchased subject to federal excise taxes but used for off-highway business purposes. This credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of a taxpayer’s income tax liability, i.e., for each dollar of federal fuel tax paid by the taxpayer the amount of his income tax liability is reduced by one dollar. If the fuel tax credit exceeds the amount of the income

tax due, the remainder of the fuel credit is refunded to the taxpayer. This credit is available to a taxpayer who operates a business and meets certain requirements regarding the use of the fuel. The credit focuses on nontaxable uses of fuel, such as use in farming operations or in commercial fishing vessels. Purchasers of traditional fuels such as diesel and gasoline are eligible for the fuel tax credit and purchasers of specified non-traditional fuels such as biodiesel and diesel-water fuel emulsion can also use the fuel tax credit provided they meet the requirements of the program.

7. The fuel tax credit is claimed using IRS Form 4136 and this form is filed with the taxpayer's annual federal income tax return. The credit for a nontaxable use of diesel-water fuel emulsion is claimed on Line 14 of Form 4136. The information required to claim this tax credit includes specification of the type of use (Line 14(a)) and the number of gallons used (Line 14(c)). The amount of the credit is calculated by multiplying the number of gallons used by the excise tax rate, which for the 2019 and 2020 tax years was .197 per gallon, and the result of this calculation yields the amount of the tax credit.

8. IRS Form 4136 also provides a credit for "other nontaxable use" of fuel. The information for this tax credit is entered on line 1(c) of Form 4136. The information that must be provided to claim this credit includes the specification of the type of use (Line 1(c)(a)) and the number of gallons used (Line 1(c)(c)). The amount of the credit is calculated by multiplying the number of gallons used by the excise tax rate, which for the 2021 and 2022 tax years was .183 per gallon, and the result of this calculation yields the amount of the tax credit.

9. As set forth below in Counts 1 through 6 and Count 9 of this indictment, the tax returns of taxpayers CS, EC, HM, RL, and RJ and defendant **RICKY DARNELL**

MATTHEWS all included Forms 4136 claiming the fuel tax credit for the nontaxable use of diesel-water fuel emulsion. In each of these returns the type of use indicated on Line 14(b) was "14" which, according to the instructions for Form 4136, is "[e]xclusive use by a state, political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia." Moreover, the Forms 4136 submitted with each return claimed that the taxpayer used more than 100,000 gallons of diesel-water fuel emulsion, thus generating a large tax credit which resulted in the taxpayer receiving a significant refund from the IRS. The chart below sets out the number of gallons of diesel-water fuel emulsion purported to have been used for non-taxable purposes and the claimed tax credit in the Forms 4136 filed with the tax returns of taxpayers identified in this indictment who claimed the credit for nontaxable use of diesel-water fuel emulsion:

Taxpayer	Return Year	Number of Gallons of Fuel Claimed to have been Used	Amount of Tax Credit Claimed
CS	2019	125,069	$24,639.00
RL	2019	775,949	$152,862.00
EC	2019	778,904	$153,444.00
HM	2019	759,490	$149,620.00
RJ	2019	790,490	$155,727.00
Ricky Darnell Matthews	2019	650,649	$128,178.00
CS	2020	779,069	$153,477.00

10. As set forth in Counts 7 and 8 of this indictment, the tax returns of taxpayers TL and AB both included Forms 4136 claiming the fuel tax credit and each return claimed the credit for the "other nontaxable use" of fuel. In both returns the type of use indicated on Line 1(c)(a) of Form 4136 was "14" which, according to the intrusions for Form 4136, is "[e]xclusive use by a state, political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia." Moreover, the Form 4136 filed as part of each return claimed that the individual taxpayer

used more than 20,000 gallons of fuel for "other nontaxable use[s]", thus generating a large tax credit which resulted in the taxpayer receiving a refund from the IRS. The chart below sets forth the number of gallons of fuel claimed to have been used for non-taxable purposes and the claimed tax credit as reflected in the Forms 4136 filed with the tax returns of TL and AB:

Taxpayer	**Return Year**	**Number of Gallons of Fuel Claimed to have been Used**	**Amount of Tax Credit Claimed**
TL	2021	22,696	$4,153.00
AB	2022	22,659	$4,147.00

11. The tax returns of taxpayers CS, EC, HM, RL, RJ, TL and AB were prepared and filed, or caused to be prepared and filed, by defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** using the EFIN of DYM Financial Services, a firm owned by defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS**, as the platform to file the returns with the IRS via the e-filing program. In each of those returns, the PTIN of defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** was used to complete the returns, and the preparer of the returns was listed as "D Matthews".

Counts 1 through 8
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(2): Aiding in the Filing of a False Tax Return)

12. Paragraphs 1 through 11 of this indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

13. On or about the dates listed in the chart below, in the Western District of Tennessee, the defendant,

YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS

did willfully aid and assist in, and procure, counsel, and advise the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of U.S. Individual Tax Returns, Forms 1040, either individual or joint, and the accompanying Credit for Federal Fuel Tax Paid on Fuels, Forms 4136, for the taxpayers and calendar years hereinafter specified. The returns and accompanying Forms 4136 were false and fraudulent as to material matters, in that they represented that the taxpayers were entitled under the provisions of the Internal Revenue laws to claim the Credit for Federal Tax Paid on Fuels in the amounts hereinafter specified, whereas, as defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** then and there knew, the taxpayers were not entitled to claim the tax credit in the amounts presented in the returns.

Count No.	Date of Offense	Taxpayer	Calendar Tax Year	Falsely Claimed Item	Amount of Claimed Tax Credit
1	02/04/2020	CS	2019	Fuel tax credit	$24,639.00
2	02/17/2020	RL	2019	Fuel tax credit	$152,862.00
3	02/21/2020	EC	2019	Fuel tax credit	$153,444.00
4	02/21/2020	HM	2019	Fuel tax credit	$149,620.00
5	05/17/2020	RJ	2019	Fuel tax credit	$155,727.00
6	02/15/2021	CS	2020	Fuel tax credit	$153,477.00
7	02/06/2022	TL	2021	Fuel tax credit	$4,153.00
8	01/23/2023	AB	2022	Fuel tax credit	$4,147.00

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2).

COUNT 9
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(1): Fraud and False Statements)

14. Paragraphs 1 through 11 of this indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

15. On or about March 29, 2020, in the Western District of Tennessee, the defendant,

RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS

did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Tax Return for calendar year 2019, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury. Defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** did not believe the return, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, to be true and correct as to every material matter in that the return claimed a tax credit for federal tax paid on fuels of $128,178.00 on the Form 4136 (Credit for Federal Tax Paid on Fuels) submitted as part of his return when he then and there well knew he was not entitled to claim a tax fuel credit in the amount of $128,178.00. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT 10
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(1): Fraud and False Statements)

16. On or about March 29, 2020, in the Western District of Tennessee, the defendant,

RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS

did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Tax Return for calendar year 2019, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury. Defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** did not believe the return, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, to be true and correct as to every material matter in that in Line 17 of the Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business) of the return, which stated the expenses of DYM Financial Services, he claimed an expense of $20,000.00 for legal and professional services when he then and there well knew that the expense he incurred was a personal legal expense in the amount of $2,000.00. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT 11
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(1): Fraud and False Statements)

17. On or about May 5, 2021, in the Western District of Tennessee, the defendant,

RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS

did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Tax Return for calendar year 2020, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury. Defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** did not believe the return, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, to be true and correct as to every material matter in that on Line 1 of the Internal Revenue Service Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business) for DYM Financial Services that was filed with his return he claimed $25,469.00 in gross receipts or sales when he then and there well knew that his gross receipts or sales were $44,596.00. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT 12
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(1): Fraud and False Statements)

18. On or about August 18, 2022, in the Western District of Tennessee, the defendant,

RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS

did willfully make and subscribe an Amended U.S. Individual Tax Return for calendar year 2021, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury. Defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** did not believe the return, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, to be true and correct as to every material matter in that on Line 1 of the Internal Revenue Service Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business) for DYM Financial Services that was filed with his return he claimed $6,500.00 in gross receipts or sales when he then and there well knew that his gross receipts or sales were $49,603.00. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT 13
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(1): Fraud and False Statements)

19. On or about August 20, 2021, in the Western District of Tennessee, the defendant,

YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS

did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Tax Return for calendar year 2019, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** did not believe the return, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, to be true and correct as to every material matter in that on Line 1 of the Internal Revenue Service Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business) filed with her return she claimed $35,696.00 in gross receipts or sales from her self-employment when she then and there well knew that her gross receipts or sales from her self-employment were $112,771.00. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT 14
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(1): Fraud and False Statements)

20. On or about August 4, 2021, in the Western District of Tennessee, the defendant,

YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS

did willfully make and subscribe a U.S. Individual Tax Return for calendar year 2020, which was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** did not believe the return, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, to be true and correct as to every material matter in that on Line 1 of the Internal Revenue Service Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business) that was filed with her return she claimed $96,000.00 in gross receipts or sales from her self-employment when she then and there well knew that her gross receipts or sales from her self-employment were $333,584.00. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT 15
(18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy)

21. Paragraphs 1 through 11 of this indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

22. Commencing at a date unknown to the grand jury, but at least from in or about January of 2018, and continuing thereafter to in or about January of 2023, in the Western District of Tennessee, and elsewhere, the defendants,

YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS
and
RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS

did unlawfully, voluntarily, intentionally, and knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other and with others, known and unknown to the grand jury, to defraud the United States for the purpose of impeding, impairing, obstructing and defeating the lawful government functions of the Internal Revenue Service of Treasury Department in the ascertainment, computation, assessment, and collection of revenue, that is, income taxes.

The Object of the Conspiracy

23. It was the object of the conspiracy to obtain money in the possession of the United States by filing federal income tax returns that included materially false claims that the taxpayer was entitled to a fuel tax credit, thus generating large tax refunds. It was the further object of the conspiracy to distribute to the members of the conspiracy the money obtained from the United States by way of the tax refunds that were obtained by the filing of tax returns that contained materially false statements. In addition to the foregoing objects, it was also the object of the conspiracy to prevent its detection by law

enforcement and the prosecution of those participating in the conspiracy. The activities of defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** and defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** and the other coconspirators resulted in a tax loss to the United States of $1,438,187.00.

<u>The Manner and Means by which the Conspiracy was Carried Out</u>

24. The manner and means by which the conspiracy was sought to be accomplished include, among others, the following:

a. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** would file, or cause to be filed, Form 4136 (Credit for Federal Tax paid on Fuels) with a taxpayer's federal income tax return that falsely stated the taxpayer had used large quantities of diesel-water fuel emulsion for a nontaxable use or had used other fuel for a non-taxable use in the operation of a business. Each Form 4136 she filed, or caused to be filed, included a false assertion that the taxpayer had used thousands-or even hundreds of thousands-of gallons of fuel. Because of the large amount of nontaxable fuel claimed to have been used in the Forms 4136, these false claims generated significant tax refunds.

b. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** used, or caused to be used, the EFIN of DYM Financial Services, a firm owned and operated by defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS**, to file income tax returns with the IRS using the e-file system. These returns included Forms 4136 that contained materially false claims regarding the fuel tax credit. When filing the returns, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** used, or caused to be used, defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS'** PTIN to complete the filing process.

c. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** directed EC, RJ, and RL, taxpayers whose returns included false claims that the taxpayer was entitled to the fuel tax credit, to open checking accounts at a specific bank to facilitate the division of the large tax refunds generated by the false claims described herein.

25. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to affect the object thereof, the following overt acts were committed in the Western District of Tennessee and elsewhere:

a. On or about February 3, 2019, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer CS for calendar year 2018 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements. The Form 4136 in that instance claimed that the taxpayer had used 163,569 gallons of diesel-water fuel emulsion for a nontaxable use and claimed a fuel tax credit of $32,223.00. The Form 4136 also specified that the type of use of the fuel was “14”, which, according to the instructions for Form 4136, is “[e]xclusive use by a state, political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia.”

b. On or about February 23, 2019, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer EC for calendar year 2018 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements. The Form 4136 in that instance claimed that the taxpayer had used 346,909 gallons of diesel-water fuel emulsion for a nontaxable use and claimed a fuel tax credit of $68,341.00. The Form 4136 also specified that the type of use of the fuel was “14”, which, according to the instructions for

Form 4136, is "[e]xclusive use by a state, political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia."

c. The 2018 federal income tax return of taxpayer CS requested a refund of $43,454.00 and the IRS issued a refund in that amount. On or about February 25, 2019, taxpayer CS wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $22,600.00. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

d. On or about March 4, 2019, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer HM for calendar year 2018 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements. The Form 4136 in that instance claimed that the taxpayer had used 35,049 gallons of diesel-water fuel emulsion for a nontaxable use and claimed a fuel tax credit of $6,905.00. The Form 4136 also specified that the type of use of the fuel was "14", which, according to the instructions for Form 4136, is "[e]xclusive use by a state, political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia."

e. The 2018 federal income tax return of taxpayer EC requested a refund of $69,349.00 and the IRS issued a refund in that amount. On or about March 9, 2019, taxpayer EC wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $36,674.50. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

f. On or about April 26, 2019, defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, his calendar year 2018 income tax return with the IRS which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements. The Form 4136 in that instance claimed that the defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** had used 385,690 gallons of diesel-water fuel emulsion for a nontaxable use and claimed a fuel tax credit of $75,981.00. The Form 4136 also specified that the type of use of the fuel was "14", which, according to the instructions for Form 4136, is "[e]xclusive use by a state, political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia."

g. On or about October 16, 2019, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer RJ for calendar year 2018 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements. The Form 4136 in that instance claimed that the taxpayer had used 495,916 gallons of diesel-water fuel emulsion for a nontaxable use and claimed a fuel tax credit of $97,695.00. The Form 4136 also specified that the type of use of the fuel was "14", which, according to the instructions for Form 4136, is "[e]xclusive use by a state, political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia."

h. The 2018 federal income tax return of taxpayer RJ requested a refund of $103,118.00 and the IRS issued a refund in the amount of $72,436.85. On or about December 11, 2019, taxpayer RJ wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $53,497.00. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

i. On or about February 4, 2020, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer CS for calendar year 2019 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

j. The 2019 federal income tax return of taxpayer CS requested a refund of $33,891.00 and the IRS issued a refund in that amount. On or about February 26, 2020, taxpayer CS wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $15,891.00. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

k. On or about February 17, 2020, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer RL for the calendar year 2019 federal which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

l. On or about February 21, 2020, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer EC for the calendar year 2019 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

m. On or about February 21, 2020, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer HM for the calendar year 2019 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

n. The 2019 federal income tax return of taxpayer EC requested a refund of $154,014.00 and the IRS issued a refund in that amount. On or about March 3, 2020, taxpayer EC wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for

$90,000.00. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

o. The 2019 federal income tax return of taxpayer RL requested a refund of $153,383.00 and the IRS issued a refund in that amount. On or about March 4, 2020, taxpayer RL wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $49,664.50. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

p. The 2019 federal income tax return of taxpayer HM requested a refund of $153,594.00 and the IRS issued a refund in that amount. On or about March 11, 2020, someone wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $92,250.00 that was drawn on a bank account in the name of taxpayer HM. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union. On or about March 13, 2020, someone wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $5,000.00 that was drawn on a bank account in the name of taxpayer HM. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

q. On or about March 29, 2020, defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS his income tax return for the calendar year 2019 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

r. On or about May 17, 2020, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer RJ for the calendar year 2019 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

s. The 2019 federal income tax return of taxpayer RJ requested a refund of $161,556.00 and the IRS issued a refund in that amount. On or about May 28, 2020, taxpayer RJ wrote defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** a check for $80,778.65. Defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** deposited this check into her account at a local credit union.

t. On or about October 10, 2020, defendant **YASHI DAWN MATTHEWS** purchased defendant **RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS** a car using funds from the account where the checks she received from various taxpayers as noted in paragraphs 25.c, 25.e, 25.h, 25.j, 25.n, 25.o, 25.p, and 25.s, herein.

u. On or about February 15, 2021, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer CS for the calendar year 2020 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

v. On or about February 6, 2022, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer TL for the calendar year 2021 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

w. On or about January 23, 2023, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** filed, or caused to be filed, with the IRS the income tax return of taxpayer AB for the calendar year 2022 which included an IRS Form 4136 that contained false material statements.

x. On various dates within the time frame of this conspiracy, defendant **YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS** directed taxpayers EC, RJ, and RL to open checking accounts at a specific bank so the proceeds of the conspiracy could be distributed.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

A TRUE BILL:

____

F O R E P E R S O N

DATED: March 3, 2026

____

D. MICHAEL DUNAVANT
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

MURPHY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	Case. No. 26-20075 BCL-atc
v.	)	
	)	18 U.S.C. § 371
YOSHI DAWN MATTHEWS, and	)	26 U.S.C. § 7206(1)
RICKY DARNELL MATTHEWS,	)	26 U.S.C. § 7602(2)
	)	
Defendants.	)	

NOTICE OF PENALTIES

COUNTS 1 THROUGH 8
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(2): Aiding in the Filing of a False Tax Return)

[Nmt 3 yrs. imprisonment, nmt $100,000 fine, or both, together with the costs of prosecution, nmt a one yr. period of supervised release, and a special assessment of $100].

COUNTS 9 THROUGH 14
(26 U.S.C. § 7206(1): Fraud and False Statements)

[Nmt 3 yrs. imprisonment, nmt a $100,000 fine, or both, together with the costs of prosecution, nmt a one yr. period of supervised release, and a special assessment of $100].

COUNT 15
(18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy)

[Nmt 5 yrs. imprisonment, nmt a $250,000 fine, or both, together with the costs of prosecution, nmt a 3 yr. period of supervised release, and a special assessment of $100].