



# PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation  
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## **Simi Valley Woman and Promoter in Tax Fraud Scheme Convicted of Filing False Claims**

**SANTA ANA** – Maribel Rincon, a Simi Valley Promoter associated with De La Fuente Ramirez and Associates (DLFRA), was found guilty by a federal jury on three counts of causing the filing of false claims against the U.S. The conviction took place late yesterday, following a two day trial before U.S. District Judge Josephine L. Staton.

Maribel Rincon, 42, was previously charged on September 28, 2011 with causing false fraudulent claims to be filed against the U.S. by claiming almost \$2 million dollars in fictitious federal income tax withholding and over \$1.3 million in false federal income tax refunds to the IRS involving three of her clients.

According to court records, Maribel Rincon was a licensed real estate agent and promoter in DLFRA. DLFRA and related entity Old Quest were two enterprises engaged in the promotion of a fraudulent tax refund scheme that centered on the submission of false 1099-OID information returns. To date, 55 defendants have been charged and over 35 have been convicted as part of the Old Quest/DLFRA. As a promoter in DLFRA, Rincon generally received \$1,000 from each customer, plus a percentage of any fraudulent refund received.

According to evidence at trial, between November 4, 2009 and June 2010, three false federal income tax returns, involving three of Rincon's clients, were filed with the IRS. The fraudulent tax returns claiming fictitious OID-based withholding totaled \$1,198,196.00 and the fictitious refunds totaled \$1,331,576.00. Evidence introduced during Rincon's trial, also included testimony by two of Rincon's clients.

Extensive witness testimony at trial was given by an IRS Special Agent. Two of Rincon's clients, an IRS Tax Compliance Officer Manager and an accountant whom Rincon tried to recruit also testified in court. Additional evidence introduced at trial included email evidence and copies of a Form 1099-OID fraud alert. Rincon was also told more than once that CPAs and/or reputable tax return preparers determined that the scheme was completely bogus and continued to promote the 1099 OID scheme after IRS Criminal Investigation served a search warrant at the business location of both DLFRA and Old Quest. She also engaged in obstructive behavior, including participating in a meeting with Osman Norales and Christine Rincon, two other DLFRA promoters and witnesses who had been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury. At the meeting Rincon, Osman and Norales instructed the witnesses to lie to the grand jury investigating the OID scheme.

At sentencing, on May, 8, 2014, Maribel Rincon faces a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment.

*The case is being investigated by special agents with IRS Criminal Investigation. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Pell of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Santa Ana, CA. For additional information about IRS Criminal Investigation, please visit [irs.gov](http://irs.gov)*

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