

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF MOBILE POLICE OFFICER ON CHARGES OF INCOME TAX EVASION, FILING FALSE RETURNS**

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest today of a Mobile police officer on charges of state income tax evasion and filing false tax returns. Donald Pears, 61, surrendered this afternoon at the Mobile County Sheriff's Office.

Attorney General Strange's Special Prosecutions Division presented evidence to a Mobile County grand jury on December 9, resulting in Pears' indictment.

Specifically, the indictment charges Pears with four counts of evading his personal income taxes and four counts of filing false income tax returns under penalty of perjury. The charges involve alleged violations involving the years 2007 through 2010.

No further information about the investigation or about Pears' alleged crimes other than that stated in the indictment may be released at this time.

If convicted, Pears faces a penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine for each of the counts of income tax evasion, and three years imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000 for each of the counts of filing false returns.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorney General Bill Lisenby and thanked Alabama Revenue Commissioner Julie P. Magee, Assistant Attorney General and Assistant Counsel Glen Powers, and agents of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

*\*An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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