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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2016

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Pennsylvania Man Convicted at Trial of Failing to Pay Income Tax

TRENTON – Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported that a former controller for United Parcel Service was convicted at trial last week for not paying income tax for the year 2008 in an amount in excess of \$248,000.

Steven Turner, 63, of New Hope, Pa., was convicted by a Mercer County jury of third-degree failure to pay income tax following a one-day trial before Mercer County Superior Court Judge Pedro J. Jimenez. Turner was indicted on October 30, 2013 as the result of an investigation by the New Jersey Division of Taxation. Third-degree crimes carry a sentence of three to five years in state prison and a criminal fine of up to \$15,000. Sentencing for Turner is scheduled for June 17.

The case was tried by Senior Assistant Prosecutor James Scott, who presented testimony and evidence that in 2008, Turner had an income of \$2.2 million. In April 2009, he filed a tax return reporting the income and reporting that he owed \$176,000 in personal New Jersey income tax. At the time that Turner filed the return, he was living in a house in Chester, NJ with his wife. The house was valued at more than \$1 million and was only in Turner's wife's name. For the first five years of the marriage, the Turners filed tax returns as married, filing jointly, which resulted in the couple paying the least amount of tax and being able to take advantage of the property tax deduction. The couple did not pay the majority of their taxes in 2007 and judgments were lodged against both in November 2008. This clouded the title on the marital home. Turner satisfied the judgments on April 13, 2009, and then on April 14, 2009, filed his 2008 tax return as married, filing a separate return. This protected the million dollar marital home from any judgments or tax liens, and Turner filed no tax payments. Because of his decision to file married, filing separate return, Turner incurred an additional \$3,000 in tax liability. He never paid any of the tax due and the liability as of June 30, 2013 was over \$248,731.39.

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