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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SAVANNAH ATTORNEY BENJAMIN EICHHOLZ**

**SENTENCED TO A 21 MONTH PRISON TERM**

**SAVANNAH, GA.** Edward J. Tarver, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that Savannah attorney Benjamin Sheftall Eichholz, age 59, was sentenced to a 21-month prison term by Chief District Court Judge William T. Moore, Jr. based on Eichholz's conviction for obstruction of justice.

An indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury in August 2009 which charged that Eichholz embezzled money from two employee pension benefit plans at the Eichholz Law Firm, and then, as part of an effort to cover up his embezzlement, repeatedly lied, filed false documents with the United States Department of Labor (DOL) and committed other acts of obstruction during a DOL investigation.

Evidence presented during the guilty plea and the sentencing hearings showed that Eichholz knowingly provided false information to the DOL in a concerted effort to obstruct the embezzlement investigation. In interviews that occurred during the course of the DOL investigation, Eichholz repeatedly lied to a senior DOL investigator about various financial transactions involving assets of the employee pension plans.

In addition to a 21-month prison term, Eichholz was also ordered to pay restitution in the

amount of \$50,117.36, a fine of \$25,000, and three (3) years of supervised release. Eichholz was ordered to surrender to the United States Bureau of Prisons no later than 2:00 p.m. on May 11, 2010, to begin serving his prison sentence.

In commenting on Eichholz's sentence, United States Attorney Tarver stated, "Mr. Eichholz's sentence was reasonable and appropriate, and should serve as a stark reminder that our justice system demands honesty and candor from all citizens. Those who lie, those who obstruct and those who testify falsely face certain prosecution by this Office and severe punishment from the Courts."

Tarver praised investigators from the United States Department of Labor, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service for their collective work which led to the indictment and conviction in this matter. Tarver also praised prosecutors Brian Rafferty, James Durham and Natalie Lee, Assistant United States Attorneys for the Southern District of Georgia, for their prosecution of the case.

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