



Department of Justice

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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COMMERCIAL REALTOR INDICTED FOR TAX EVASION

Fort Myers, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announced today the return of an indictment charging Thomas W. Daugherty (age 53, of Fort Myers) with tax evasion. Daugherty faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in federal prison.

According to the indictment, between 1998 and 2005 Daugherty evaded paying approximately \$1.6 million in taxes. To evade the payment of his taxes, Daugherty concealed from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) the nature and extent of his assets, made false statements to the IRS, hid funds and property in the names of individuals and corporate nominees, and placed funds and property beyond the reach of service of process.

Daugherty was a partner in a commercial real estate brokerage. As part of his evasion activities, Daugherty maintained a cash lifestyle to hide his earnings. He refrained from depositing his commission checks into his bank account and instead converted his commission checks into cash and multiple cashier's checks payable to him. He then deposited cash into his personal accounts to cover expenses about to clear. From November 2002 through April 2008, Daugherty purchased more than 200 cashier's checks for more than \$2.1 million.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Haas.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.