



U.S. Department of Justice

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June 30, 2009

Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Lee Chi Yee

SOUTHFIELD JEWELER PLEADS GUILTY TO AVOIDING IRS CASH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Lai Chi Yee, 56, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, owner of Golden Sun Jewelers, pleaded guilty today to failing to file required Form 8300, reporting cash transactions over \$10,000, to the IRS, announced United States Attorney Terrence Berg. Yee also agreed to forfeit \$1 million dollars.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Maurice M. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation and Robert Corso, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to court records, Yee is the owner of Golden Sun Jewelers, a business located in the Advance Building in Southfield, Michigan. Golden Sun Jewelers is a retail store that manufactures and customizes luxury watches, among other items. Golden Sun Jewelers is required to file Forms 8300 with the IRS for each cash payment of more than \$10,000. In

June, 2008, Golden Sun Jewelers received \$40,000 in cash from an undercover federal officer, posing as marijuana dealer, for the purchase of a Rolex watch. Yee received and counted the cash during the sale of the watch. She knowingly and willfully failed to file a Form 8300.

On June 16, 2009, Yee's son, Gary Yee, 33, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, pleaded guilty to one count of money laundering and also agreed to forfeiture \$1 million dollars for his role in laundering cash for narcotics traffickers.

"Providing a hush-hush outlet for drug proceeds will draw the full attention of the IRS," said Aouate. "We will follow the money and make sure violators are prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

DEA Special Agent in Charge Corso stated that, "Unfortunately, illegal drug profits are very enticing for some business owners, and the chance to get their hands on that dirty money is hard to pass up. It comes as no surprise that drug traffickers were drawn to Golden Sun Jewelers, who were more than willing to assist drug traffickers in hiding their illegal profits."

A sentencing date for Lai Chi Yee is set for November 5, 2009 at 2:00 pm, while Gary is scheduled to be sentenced on October 29, 2009 at 2:00 pm before the Honorable Victoria A. Roberts.

U.S. Attorney Berg thanks IRS CI and DEA for their assistance in this investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bruce C. Judge and Philip Ross.