



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Garrison Attorney Sentenced for Tax Evasion & Mail Fraud

BISMARCK- United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced today that **Douglas D. Sletten**, 62, formerly of Garrison, North Dakota, pled guilty and was sentenced by United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on charges of income tax evasion and mail fraud.

Judge Hovland sentenced **Sletten** to serve three years and five months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Sletten** was ordered to pay restitution of \$614,247.10 and to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

In the plea agreement filed August 12, 2008, **Sletten** admitted he failed to file tax returns in 2005, 2006 and 2007, and the United States was owed in excess of \$70,000 in those years. In addition **Sletten**, while practicing as an attorney between January 2003 and June 2007, raided his law office's trust account to pay for daily living expenses, college tuition for his children, travel, and other personal expenses. **Sletten** mailed letters containing false and misleading information to his clients, whose funds were deposited in the trust account, which resulted in the mail fraud charge.

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The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations and United States Postal Inspection Service.

Assistant United States Attorney David Peterson prosecuted the case.

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