

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney***

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rami0826.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Vineland Tax Preparer Admits Defrauding the IRS Through the Preparation of False Tax Returns

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(More)

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**Breaking News (NJ)** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

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CAMDEN – A Vineland tax preparer pleaded guilty today in connection with her scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service of income tax revenues owed from her clients, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

Janet Ramirez, 37, of Hammonton, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas to a one-count Information that charges her with aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax returns. Judge Irenas released the defendant on a \$100,000 unsecured appearance bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Dec. 4.

At her plea hearing, Ramirez stated that from 2004 through 2008, she owned and operated a tax preparation business named Primetax Associates which is located in Vineland. Ramirez admitted that for the tax years of 2003 through 2007, she operated a scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service of income tax revenues owed in connection with 18 taxpayers.

Ramirez admitted that her fraudulent scheme involved the use of false itemized deductions on Schedule A and fraudulent employee business expenses on Form 2106 of her clients' personal income tax returns. Ramirez admitted that her clients did not provide her with the false information or documentation that she included on Schedule A and Form 2106 their tax returns.

Ramirez admitted that in most cases, the reduction of her clients' tax liability resulted in the clients receiving inflated tax refunds to which they were not entitled. In fact, Ramirez admitted that she prepared and caused to be filed approximately 50 tax returns for the 18 clients for tax years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 that contained false and fraudulent information and resulted in a total tax loss of more than \$121,000.

The charge of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns carries a maximum penalty of 3 years in prison and a fine of \$100,000 or twice the aggregate loss to the victim or gain to the defendant.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Irenas will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Smith of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Fred Klepp, Esq. Cherry Hill