

United States Attorney District of New Jersey

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JERSEY CITY TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING MATERIAL FALSE STATEMENTS TO THE IRS

TRENTON, N.J. – A Jersey City tax preparer pleaded guilty today to making false statements in tax documents he submitted to the IRS, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Rommel Amante, 35, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Freda L. Wolfson to an Information charging him with making materially false statements to the IRS in connection with a 2007 Income Tax Return.

According to the Information to which Amante pleaded and statements made in Trenton federal court:

Amante admitted that he paid another individual \$5,000 to create Montgomery Tax Services, located in Jersey City, so that he could prepare and electronically file Federal income tax returns while hiding his identity from the IRS. Amante admitted that he presented false claims against the IRS, which included fabricated education tax credits for his clients for the tax year 2007.

In all, the false tax returns Amante filed resulted in approximately \$941,659 in fraudulent education tax credits.

The charge to which Amante pleaded guilty carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. Sentencing is scheduled for January 6, 2011.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited special agents of IRS – Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff, and special agents of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Martin Kenney, with the investigation leading to today's guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Davenport of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense counsel: John Crayton, Esq. Moorestown, N.J.