



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Assured that Tax Laws Will Be Enforced

United States Attorney David E. O'Meilia emphasized today that it is important for the citizen who follows the rules to know that those who intentionally fail to file required tax returns or scheme to subvert the tax collection process will be held accountable.

Mr. O'Meilia stated: "The vast majority of our nation's citizens and other persons who earn income in the United States realize that it is incumbent upon them to pay their tax liabilities on time and in full. All taxpayers who do pay their taxes on time and in full should be assured that those who do not will face civil and/or criminal penalties. The U.S. Attorney's Office works closely with the Internal Revenue Service to identify and bring to justice the small percentage of individuals who attempt to circumvent this country's tax laws."

This past year has seen a number of tax fraud cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, and among those were a number of so called tax preparers and professionals. In almost all of the cases filed the end result for the individual is a conviction and frequently a prison sentence or a lengthy probation sentence and fines in the thousands of dollars. In addition, the defendant's property may be seized in order to satisfy back taxes and penalties.

At the present time there are several criminal tax cases being handled in federal district court by the U.S. Attorney's Office. There are a number of methods tax cheats use to circumvent paying their fair share. In addition to those who file false and fraudulent tax returns, there are those individuals commonly known as tax defiers, who use numerous diversions and who attempt to cite bizarre statutes and laws to justify their non-payment. Other criminal tax cases involve complicated tax fraud schemes designed to lure investors into non-existent tax shelters. Income tax fraud schemes occurring in the Northern District of Oklahoma will continue to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of federal law.