



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

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FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE PITCHER SENTENCED TO PRISON

Koosman Sentenced for Wilfully Failing to File Federal Tax Returns from 2002 - 2004

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jerome M. Koosman, 66, Osceola, Wis., was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison by Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb to six months in federal prison. On May 22, 2009, Koosman pleaded guilty to failing to file his 2002 federal tax return.

The government's proof established that Koosman was required to file federal tax returns for 2002, 2003, and 2004; he wilfully failed to file those returns and evaded approximately \$80,000 in taxes. Koosman, a retired major league baseball player who played in the major leagues from 1967 through 1985 for the New York Mets, Minnesota Twins, Chicago White Sox, and Philadelphia Phillies, was paid approximately \$50,000 in 2002 by the Major League Baseball Players Benefit Plan. In early 2003, Koosman instructed the benefit plan to discontinue his federal tax withholding.

During 2002, Koosman was also paid approximately \$25,000 by various baseball memorabilia promotion shows and baseball memorabilia products companies for appearances, autographs, and endorsements. He refused to provide his social security number to these entities for payment purposes.

Finally, when interviewed during this federal tax investigation in March 2006, Koosman was asked why he had not filed federal income tax returns for the years 2002-2004. He responded by stating that no law existed requiring him to file a return, that the filing of tax returns was voluntary, and that the Internal Revenue Code only applied to federal employees, corporate employees, and residents of the District of Columbia.

In sentencing Koosman, Chief Judge Crabb said that Koosman was like a person who went in a restaurant, enjoyed a wonderful meal, then refused to pay the bill and told others they shouldn't pay. She said his actions were the opposite of true patriotism - he took advantage of everything the United States offers to its citizens, decided to

walk away and not pay, then broadcast to others that they were fools for paying taxes.

Acting United States Attorney Sinnott stated that today's sentencing was the result of an investigation conducted by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. Prosecution of the case has been handled by AUSA John W. Vaudreuil.

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