



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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TAX FRAUD DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore today sentenced Steven Powell, age 37, of Bartow, Florida, and John R. Cuyler, age 38, of Winter Park, Florida each to thirty-six months' imprisonment for their roles in a conspiracy to defraud the United States with respect to the filing of false income tax returns. In addition to the terms of imprisonment, Judge Whittemore also sentenced each of the defendants to a three year term of supervised release and ordered restitution in the total amount of \$115,581.06 to the following institutions: the Internal Revenue Service (\$15,536); Santa Barbara Bank and Trust (\$19,224); River City Bank (\$20,974.50); Bank One (\$50,197.46) and Household Tax Masters (\$9,649.10).

Both defendants pleaded guilty before United States Magistrate Judge Mary S. Scriven on September 30, 2003 to one count of defrauding the United States and one count of filing a false claim against the United States. According to their plea agreements, Powell and Cuyler solicited other individuals for the purpose of providing them with

fraudulent Forms W-2, which could be used to file false income tax returns. In addition to soliciting other individuals , each of the defendants filed a false income tax return in his own name.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.