

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

**OWNER OF LEADING SAN DIEGO CATERING SERVICE PLEADS
GUILTY TO TAX EVASION**

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 8, 2012

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that today Robert Peltier, one of the two principal owners and operators of Ranch Catering (dba "Ranch Events") pled guilty to an information charging him with tax evasion stemming from the operation of his business.

According to its website, Ranch Catering is one of San Diego's "leading catering specialists, managing many exciting and unique venues and some of the largest Special Events in America." As detailed in charging documents, Peltier – while operating the catering business in 2003 – deposited proceeds from the business into accounts located at two different banks. When it came time to prepare his tax returns, Peltier provided his tax preparer with the deposits from only one of the two banks. As a result, he failed to declare \$419,000 in catering income to the IRS. By concealing this income, Peltier caused Ranch Catering to evade paying \$112,824 in taxes due and owing.

According to the terms of his guilty plea, Robert Peltier is required to pay \$221,792 in back taxes, penalties and interest on the taxes evaded. The plea also specifically contemplates that his son Jason Peltier (who is a co-owner of the business) will enter into a separate civil settlement with the IRS requiring him to pay an additional \$505,435 in back taxes, penalties and interest.

The plea was entered today before United States Magistrate Judge Ruben B. Brooks and is subject to final acceptance by United States District Judge Janis L. Sammartino. The defendant will next appear before Judge Sammartino for sentencing on November 9, 2012.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 12cr3126JLS

Robert Peltier

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1: Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201 – Tax Evasion
Maximum penalties: 5 years of imprisonment; \$250,000 fine; \$100 special assessment; 3year of supervised release

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation