



Department of Justice

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TWO SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRING TO DEFRAUD THE IRS

Defendants Filed False Tax Returns Seeking Almost \$1.5 Million in Bogus Refunds

ATLANTA, GA - MICHAEL ROMEO ST. ROMAIN, 35, of Decatur, Georgia, and BRIAN DUPREE, 37, of Miami, Florida, were each sentenced today by United States District Judge J. Owen Forrester to serve over 4 years in federal prison on charges of conspiring to defraud the United States by filing false tax returns.

“We will protect our country’s financial resources and swiftly punish thieves like these two defendants who stole from the taxpayers,” said United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates.

ST. ROMAIN and DUPREE were each sentenced to 4 years, 9 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. Both were also ordered to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$451,735. Both pleaded guilty to the charges on June 9, 2010.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: ST. ROMAIN and DUPREE filed 44 false income tax returns in 2006 and 2007 on behalf of other taxpayers. These returns included fabricated information, and sought excessive refunds the taxpayers were not eligible to receive. Specifically, the returns contained a false Schedule C, which is used to report business income and expenses. The fraudulent scheme resulted in ST. ROMAIN and DUPREE receiving more than \$450,000 in refunds and they attempted to receive an additional \$1 million in fraudulent refunds.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Christopher Bly prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charlyse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.justice.gov/usao/gan.