

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mount Olive CPA Pleads Guilty to Filing False Personal Income Tax Returns

(More)

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TRENTON – A Mount Olive certified public accountant pleaded guilty yesterday to a charge of filing a false personal income tax return, admitting his personal income tax returns for tax years 2002, 2003 and 2004 failed to report income totaling approximately \$365,500, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

Kevin P. Williamson, 49, of Chester, made his first appearance in federal court and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Mary L. Cooper. Williamson, whose office is in the Flanders section of Mount Olive Township, pleaded guilty to an Information that charges him with filing a personal income tax return for calendar year 2002 that failed to report \$156,631 in business income for that year. Judge Cooper released the defendant on a \$100,000 personal recognizance bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Jan. 7.

As part of his guilty plea, Williamson also admitted to filing personal income tax returns that failed to report business income of \$117,953 and \$90,937 for calendar years 2003 and 2004, respectively. The total loss in tax revenue to the government arising from these three years exceeded \$80,000.

At the plea hearing, Williamson admitted that he signed each of his personal income tax returns under the penalty of perjury, and that he knew when he signed them that they contained false statements.

The charge to which Williamson pleaded guilty carries a maximum statutory penalty of 3 years in prison and a fine of the greatest of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss caused by his offense. In addition, the plea agreement requires the defendant to file accurate amended personal returns for calendar years 2002 through 2004, and to pay to the IRS all taxes and any penalties owed on those returns.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Cooper will consult the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The Judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the IRS, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa M. Colone of the U.S. Attorney's Office Violent Crimes Unit.

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Defense Counsel: Frank J. Crupi, Esq. Livingston