



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(914) 993-1900, (212) 637-2600

IRS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
JOSEPH FOY
(212) 436-1032

FORMER ROCKLAND TAX PREPARER SENTENCED
IN FEDERAL INCOME TAX FRAUD CASE

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that GLEN ROBINS, a tax preparer formerly in the employ of his co-defendant DUANE HOWELL, was sentenced today in White Plains federal court to a term of 30 months in prison in connection with his earlier plea of guilty to a tax fraud conspiracy. He was also sentenced to pay \$1.2 million in restitution to the IRS. On February 28, Robins had pleaded guilty to conspiring to: 1) obstruct the Internal Revenue Service and 2) prepare scores of false and fraudulent income tax returns for individuals and partnerships.

During his guilty plea allocution before United States Magistrate Judge MARK D. FOX, ROBINS had admitted that he had conspired to falsify expenses on the partnership returns of clients of HOWELL's tax preparation firm, which was originally located in West Nyack, Rockland County. These fictitious expenses created losses for the partnerships, and those losses flowed through to the returns of the individual clients, thereby fraudulently reducing their tax liability.

ROBINS had also admitted that he had conspired to take fraudulent deductions, for contributions to self-employment retirement plans, on the returns of individual clients. Finally, ROBINS had admitted submitting false tax returns for himself and his own partnerships.

According to the Indictment, HOWELL and ROBINS generated approximately \$9 million in fraudulent expenses on the

partnership returns in question, and approximately \$900,000 in fraudulent deductions for contributions towards self-employment retirement plans that were taken on the individual tax returns of their clients.

On March 14, DUANE HOWELL pleaded guilty to the same conspiracy charge as ROBINS and also pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to interfere with the administration of internal revenue laws. HOWELL is scheduled to be sentenced before United States District Judge CHARLES L. BRIEANT on June 19.

Mr. GARCIA praised the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service for its efforts during the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys ELLIOTT B. JACOBSON and BRENT S. WIBLE are in charge of the prosecution.

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