



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**CHAPPAQUA ACCOUNTANT SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR STEALING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS
OF CLIENT TAX REFUND CHECKS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and RAFAEL PRIETO, the Resident Agent in Charge of the White Plains Office of the United States Secret Service, announced that RANDAL L. KASE was sentenced today by United States District Judge CATHY SEIBEL in White Plains federal court to 33 months in prison for stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars of his clients' tax refund checks.

According to the Information to which KASE pled guilty, statements made in Court during his guilty plea and sentencing, and other documents publicly filed in the case:

From approximately 1998 through February 2009, RANDAL L. KASE, a licensed certified public accountant in New York State, prepared tax returns for his clients. During this time, KASE diverted the tax refund checks of numerous clients to his address in Chappaqua, New York, without the knowledge or permission of those clients.

After the Internal Revenue Service mailed his clients' tax refund checks to KASE, KASE forged his clients' endorsements and falsely represented that his clients had signed the refund checks over to him. KASE then deposited his clients' tax refund checks into his own bank accounts or used the checks to pay off his credit card bills. In total, KASE misappropriated at least 60 tax refund checks from his clients, totaling more than \$325,000.

KASE was arrested on February 2, 2009, and pleaded guilty on April 20, 2009, to one count of forging endorsements on United States Treasury checks and one count of mail fraud. In addition to the prison term, Judge SEIBEL sentenced KASE to three years of supervised release and ordered him to pay \$308,668.38 of

restitution to his victims.

KASE, 56, resides in Chappaqua, New York.

Mr. BHARARA praised the efforts of the United States Secret Service.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant United States Attorney JASON P.W. HALPERIN is in charge of the prosecution.

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