

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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GREECE BUSINESS OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Daniel Constantino, 45, of Churchville, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa, to filing a false statement in a tax return. The charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison, a fine of \$100,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant was the owner of Constantino's Pizza in Greece, N.Y. Between 2007 and 2009, Constantino under reported the sales and income of his business on federal corporate tax returns. At the same time, the defendant paid employees with a combination of paychecks and cash, thus under reporting the wage and withholdings in the business' payroll federal tax returns. As a result, Constantino and his company underpaid the Internal Revenue Service a total of \$29,578.24.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 27, at 4 p.m. EST, in Rochester, N.Y., before Judge Siragusa.

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