

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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**FINANCIAL ADVISOR SENTENCED FOR
ATTEMPTING TO EVADE THE PAYMENT OF HIS TAXES**

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Eric J. Justin, 49, of Lancaster, N.Y., who was convicted of attempting to evade and defeat the payment of taxes, was sentenced to 12 months in prison by Chief U.S. District Court Judge William M. Skretny. The defendant was also ordered to pay \$216,295.16 in restitution.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who handled the case, stated that Justin employed several schemes to evade the payment of an individual federal tax liability including interest, penalties and fees of \$258,403.70. Between April 15, 2002, and October 13, 2010, the defendant redirected income to his wife as a nominee to hide his business interests, real estate, and personal car; by failing to use any typical record-keeping or accounting method; by failing to differentiate personal and business bank accounts and by transferring funds between various personal and business accounts. In addition, Justin failed to disclose to the Internal Revenue Service, or his accountant, the receipt of more than \$98,000 in life insurance proceeds. The defendant also falsely claimed to the IRS that his real property was encumbered in order to deflate his asset equity numbers.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation by Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Toni Wierauch.

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