



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2011

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PRESS RELEASE
***HOOK ADMITS FILING FALSE RETURN
IN CONNECTION WITH PRIVATE CLUB;
RETURN DID NOT INCLUDE ALL CASH
RECEIVED BY THE CLUB***

SALT LAKE CITY -- Thomas J. Hook, the primary owner of Westerner Private Club, Inc., in Salt Lake City during 2002, pleaded guilty in federal court this week to making and signing a false federal income tax return.

Hook admitted that during 2002, the management of the club systematically excluded cash received at the bar from the books and records that were given to the accountant who prepared tax returns for the business. Hook admitted that the difference between the actual cash received and the cash reported on the books provided to the accountant was substantial and likely would have impacted the calculation of tax owed to the federal government.

Hook admitted that on Sept. 15, 2003, a tax return was prepared for the club based on books presented to the accountant. Hook admitted he signed the tax return knowing that it did not report all of the gross receipts of the business and that he did it with the intent of reducing the club's income tax liability.

Sentencing in the case is set for May 10, 2011, before U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart. The potential maximum penalty for the conviction is three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

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