

Department of Justice

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BUFFALO MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL TAX FRAUD CASE

BUFFALO, N.Y.--Darryle Buckner, 42, of Buffalo, New York, was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison by U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny today, Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul J. Campana said Buckner pled guilty last November to all six counts of an indictment that charged Buckner with filing a false 2003 federal income tax return in his own name, assisting four other persons to file false returns in their names, and a conspiracy charge. The tax returns, which were filed in early 2004, contained claims for tax refunds and credits, based on false information regarding earnings and dependent care expenses. The false credits that were claimed included the Earned Income Credit and the credit for child and dependent care services. Campana said the tax returns were accompanied by false W-2 earnings statements that made it appear that Buckner and the four other tax filers he recruited had worked for an employer, when in fact they had not.

Judge Skretny's sentence also included an order that Buckner pay \$43,541 in restitution to the IRS. Judge Skretny denied the defendant's request to serve his sentence in community confinement (*i.e.*, a halfway house), citing Buckner's conviction earlier this year for an alcohol-related traffic offense, and several other prior convictions.

The conviction was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent In-Charge Patricia J. Haynes.

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