

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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SNYDER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that John J. Barden, III, 55, of Snyder, N.Y., pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Court Judge William M. Skretny, to failing to pay employment taxes. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward H. White, who is handling the case, stated that for the years 2005 through 2009, Barden falsely classified the wages of his employees at Double Down Transport, Inc. as payments for per diem, fuel advances, and reimbursements for tolls, permits, repairs, and maintenance. As a result, the defendant avoided paying a total of \$75,568.74 in employment taxes.

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 July 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Skretny.

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