

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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HANDYMAN SENTENCED FOR THEFT OF GOVERNMENT MONEY AND TAX EVASION

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Paul McBratney, 52, of Buffalo, New York, who was convicted of theft of government money and tax evasion, was sentenced to time served and three years supervised release by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny. The defendant was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$21,400 to the Social Security Administration, and \$49,500 to the Internal Revenue Service.

Assistant U.S. Attorney MaryEllen Kresse, who handled the case, stated that McBratney admitted that between May 2008 and August 2009, he was self-employed as a home improvement contractor. During that time, he fraudulently received over \$20,000 in Social Security disability benefits by claiming he was unable to work. The defendant also admitted that he failed to report \$150,000 in taxable income from his home improvement business to the Internal Revenue Service from 2005 to 2009, which resulted in a tax loss of approximately \$49,000.

The sentence is the result of an investigation by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Edward J. Ryan, and the Internal Revenue Service, under the direction Special Agent in Charge Charles R. Pine.

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