



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 8, 2008
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INDIANAPOLIS ATTORNEY CONVICTED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that ROBERT E. LEHMAN, 57, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment and 6 months home detention today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to making an false federal income tax return. This case was the result of a investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

LEHMAN was a personal injury lawyer who practiced in Indianapolis. The evidence presented indicated that LEHMAN signed and filed false Form 1040 personal income tax returns with the IRS for the years 2002 through 2004. The returns were false in that LEHMAN understated his business income.

To commit the offense, LEHMAN did the following. When LEHMAN paid his clients from the firm trust account, he would cut two checks. Both checks were made payable to the client. LEHMAN would then direct the client to endorse one check to him. These checks represented fees or income to LEHMAN's law practice. LEHMAN's law practice, however, would treat both of the checks made payable to the clients as cost of goods sold. As a result, the net income would be falsely under-reported. For the three years charged, LEHMAN underpaid over \$100,000 in federal income tax.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Warden, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 1 year supervised release following LEHMAN's release from imprisonment. LEHMAN was fined in the amount of \$10,000. LEHMAN has now paid \$236,000 to the Internal Revenue Service for tax, penalties and interest.

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