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LIVE OAK BUSINESS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR TAX FRAUD

Jacksonville, Florida - U.S. District Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr., today sentenced Joseph Barney Wainwright, Jr., a 44-year old resident of Live Oak, Florida, to 18 months' imprisonment, to be followed by one year of supervised release, for filing false federal income tax returns.

Wainwright pled guilty on September 13, 2007. In his plea agreement, Wainwright admitted that he knowingly and willfully filed false federal income tax returns for the years 2000 and 2001. On the false returns, Wainwright substantially understated gross receipts from his business, Wainwright Construction, which had the effect of dramatically lowering his reported income tax liability. For the year 2000, Wainwright's tax return understated gross income from his business by more than \$1 million. Likewise, for the year 2001, his tax return understated gross receipts by more than \$600,000. There were also other false entries on his tax returns for both years.

In addition to serving terms of imprisonment and supervised release, Wainwright will have to pay the Internal Revenue Service for all under-reported taxes for the years 2000 through 2007, plus interest and penalties. Wainwright's total tax bill will be more than \$600,000.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service- Criminal Investigation, with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney M. Scotland Morris.

