



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

## **ORLANDO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO \$181 MILLION PAYROLL TAX FRAUD**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announced Frank L. AMODEO, a 48-year-old resident of Orlando, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, obstruction of an agency proceeding, and impeding the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the assessment and collection of taxes; failure to remit payroll taxes; and obstruction of an agency proceeding. The maximum penalty AMODEO faces is twenty-five years' imprisonment, a \$1.25 million fine, and 15 years of supervised release.

According to the plea agreement, AMODEO, along with his co-conspirators, controlled a web of one public and several private companies, including multiple employee leasing companies, also known as professional employee organizations (PEOs). AMODEO conspired with his co-conspirators to absolve themselves and the companies they controlled of the responsibility for existing payroll tax liabilities and to divert payroll tax funds paid by the PEO clients to the PEOs that AMODEO and his co-conspirators controlled.

There were a number of companies, including Mirabilis Ventures (Mirabilis) and affiliates of Mirabilis, controlled by AMODEO and the other co-conspirators, which played a part in the tax fraud, wire fraud, and obstruction scheme. The companies involved in the scheme included AEM, AQMI Strategy Corporation, Common Paymaster Corporation, Nexia Strategy Corporation, Presidion Corporation, Presidion Solutions, Wellington Capital

Group, and various other companies. Although AMODEO was not listed as a director, officer, or shareholder for some of the companies involved in the scheme, AMODEO and his co-conspirators directed the business activities of all the companies involved in the scheme.

During an IRS attempt to ascertain and collect the payroll taxes, AMODEO and one or more of his co-conspirators intentionally misled the IRS concerning the unpaid payroll taxes, which allowed the unpaid payroll taxes to increase to significant amounts.

AMODEO and one or more of his co-conspirators knowingly failed to remit to the Internal Revenue Service payroll taxes totaling approximately \$181 million including approximately \$129 million in FICA and withholding taxes (also referred to as trust fund taxes).

The case was investigated by special agents of the Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney I. Randall Gold.