



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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FORMER TAMPA MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR TAX FRAUD

Tampa, Florida - United States District Judge Susan C. Bucklew sentenced tax return preparer Lee Scott Roberts, age 63, to 51 months' imprisonment on charges stemming from his scheme to defraud the United States by filing false and fraudulent claims for income tax refunds.

On December 8, 2003, a federal jury found Roberts guilty on one count of conspiracy to file false claims and eleven counts of filing false claims. The indictment alleged that Roberts, who was affiliated with an entity known as American Tax Consultants, filed income tax returns on behalf of taxpayers which fraudulently claimed that the taxpayers were entitled to refunds of previously paid taxes and/or not obligated to pay federal income taxes because they were considered "non-resident aliens."

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Rachelle DesVaux Bedke.