



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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## RENAISSANCE, THE TAX PEOPLE, INC., - WICHITA WOMAN ENTERS GUILTY PLEA FOR ASSISTING IN THE FILING OF A FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren and Eileen J. O’Connor, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Tax Division, announced that **Elizabeth Crotts**, 46, Wichita, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to **one count of assisting, counseling, and advising the preparation of a false and fraudulent federal income tax return.**

Melgren said that Crotts admitted at her plea that she assisted, counseled, and advised the preparation of a false and fraudulent 1999 federal income tax return on March 20, 2000, which overstated losses on a Schedule C business form. Crotts further admitted that she was an Affiliated Tax Professional with Renaissance, The Tax People, Inc., a multilevel marketing company that purportedly specialized in the sales and service of home-based business packages involving tax strategies and tax services. Crotts admitted that during her association with Renaissance, from 1999 through 2001, she prepared thirty-seven false or fraudulent tax returns resulting in a tax loss of approximately \$94,000 to the Internal Revenue Service. Crotts admitted that these federal income tax returns were false because they were based on an activity that was not a legitimate business nor an activity engaged in for profit, inflated or fabricated Schedule C business deductions, treated personal living expenses as business deductions, and made other misrepresentations that resulted in under reporting and underpaying income tax owed to the Internal Revenue Service.

Crotts faces a maximum of three years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for February 7, 2005, at 10:30 a.m.

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“As this conviction demonstrates, the government can and will find those who promote or join schemes to file fraudulent tax returns, and hold them accountable,” said Assistant Attorney General Eileen J. O’Connor.

“Taxpayers need to be careful in selecting the tax professional who will prepare their tax return,” said Al Patton, Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation. “Unscrupulous tax preparers file false and fraudulent returns to defraud the government, the taxpaying public and their own clients.”

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask, along with Department of Justice Tax Division Attorneys Charles A. O’Reilly and Lea Carlisle, in this prosecution and noted that the investigation is continuing.