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Amarillo Tax Preparer Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that James Kevin Foster, a/k/a Kevin Foster, pled guilty yesterday before the Honorable Mary Lou Robinson, United States District Judge, to one count of fraud and false statement on a tax return. Foster faces a maximum statutory sentence of three years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and restitution. A sentencing date of October 27, 2004 has been set.

Kevin Foster, a resident of Amarillo, was in the profession of preparing income tax returns and was identified as an Affiliated Tax Professional by Renaissance, The Tax People, Inc. (Renaissance). Renaissance, formerly known as Renaissance Designer Gallery Products, Inc. and Advantage International Marketing, was a corporation that was registered in Nevada with headquarters in Topeka, Kansas. Renaissance was a multi-level marketing company that specialized in the sales and service of home-based business packages involving tax strategies and tax services. As part of the home-based business package, Renaissance offered tax support to its members in the form of tax preparation, tax advice, and "audit protection." Individual taxpayers learned about Foster's tax preparation services from Foster and other promoters at Renaissance seminars.

According to court documents, Foster admitted that from April 2000 to April 2002, he aided and assisted in, procured, counseled, and advised, the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of individual or joint income tax returns, Forms 1040, which he knew were false and fraudulent. Foster admitted that he knew that the tax returns reported false items including Schedule A deductions for charitable contributions and business expenses, including mileage, and Schedule C business losses, to which the tax payers were not entitled.

The total fraud loss to the government as a result of the false deductions totaled \$58,757.00.

U.S. Attorney Roper acknowledged and praised the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Vicki Lamberson of the Amarillo, Texas, U.S. Attorney's Office.

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