



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

April 11, 2003

RE: UNITED STATES v. JOSEPH DETTELIS

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced the unsealing of a 20-count Indictment, charging Joseph Dettelis, 43, of Buffalo, New York with aiding and assisting in the preparation of federal income tax returns, making false claims against the United States government, and filing Power of Attorney documents with the Internal Revenue Service falsely stating that he was an attorney admitted to practice in New York State's highest court.

Assistant United States Attorney Marie P. Grisanti said Dettelis is charged in 11 counts with aiding and assisting in the preparation of false returns, for which the maximum penalty, per count, is three years imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine. AUSA Grisanti said the indictment charges five counts of making false claims, each count of which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The indictment also charges four false statement counts, which also carry the five-year, \$250,000 maximum penalties. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Grisanti said the indictment was returned by the grand jury on March 11, 2003, and that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Mr. Dettelis. The indictment was unsealed yesterday.

The Indictment was the culmination of an investigation by the Internal revenue Service, Criminal investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent In Charge Steven H. Pregozen.

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