



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

# NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**Contact: Kena Rice**

(316) 269-6481

**Headquarters**

1200 Epic Center  
301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316)269-6481  
FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office**

444 Quincy  
Topeka, Kansas 66683

**Kansas City Office**

500 State Avenue  
Suite 360  
Kansas City, Kansas  
66101

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## FORMER LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT ON A FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Michael Mehling**, 50, currently of Louisville, Kentucky, formerly of Leavenworth, Kansas, was sentenced on Monday, October 20, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil **to twelve months and one day in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by one year of supervised release.**

Mehling entered a guilty plea on July 28, 2003, to one count of making a false statement on a federal income tax return.

Melgren stated that Mehling admitted at his plea that in February 1997 he filed a 1996 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return with the IRS claiming that he had no taxable income in 1996 when he knew that he had taxable income of approximately \$87,242.00 from selling education programs and soliciting funds for investments and owed approximately \$23,649.00 to the IRS. Mehling further admitted that in 1997 and 1998 he continued to sell education programs and solicit funds for investments and that in 1998 he filed a 1997 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return claiming taxable income of \$9,224.08 for 1997 when he knew that he had taxable income of approximately \$72,731.00 and owed approximately \$18,373.00 to the IRS; and in 1999 he filed a 1998 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return claiming taxable income of \$8,775.44 for 1998 when he knew that he had taxable income of approximately \$69,632.00 and owed approximately \$17,297.00 to the IRS.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.

The signing and filing of a fraudulent tax return is a serious federal tax violation that increases the tax burden on the majority of citizens who fully comply in meeting their tax obligations," said Michael Yasofsky, Jr., Acting Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation. "We will continue to aggressively investigate these cases."