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March 4, 2002

PRESS RELEASE

**TAX RETURN PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO
AIDING IN THE FILING OF A FALSE RETURN**

On March 1, 2002, JOHN M. DONNIACUO, of Clearwater, Florida, appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Jenkins and entered a plea of guilty to one count of aiding in the preparation of a false income tax return, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2). DONNIACUO pled guilty to Count Two of an indictment which a federal grand jury sitting in Tampa returned against him in October, 2001. United States District Court Judge James S. Moody, Jr. will sentence the defendant upon his acceptance of that plea of guilty.

The charges in this case stemmed from DONNIACUO's involvement in the preparation of a false Form 1040 Individual Income Tax Return on behalf of a client of his for tax year 1994. In that false return, DONNIACUO knowingly reported that the client/taxpayer had earned income in tax year 1994 of only \$78,000.000 when, in reality, DONNIACUO knew that the client/taxpayer's income was substantially higher.

The District Court has not yet scheduled a date for the sentencing hearing in this case.

The charges in this case were the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division. The prosecution of this case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.