



United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

April 12, 2007

WETHERSFIELD WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL TAX CHARGES

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that SNEZANA BERBIC, age 38, of 136 Hang Dog Lane, Wethersfield, Connecticut, waived indictment and pleaded guilty today before United States Magistrate Judge Donna F. Martinez in Hartford, to one count of making a false statement on a federal individual income tax return, and one count of assisting another person in the preparation of a false federal individual income tax return.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, BERBIC has admitted that, on approximately April 15, 2006, she willfully prepared, signed and filed a false Federal Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2005, in which she reported income of \$56,500 when, in fact, her true income was more than \$178,390. BERBIC also admitted that, on approximately March 7, 2005, she willfully aided and assisted another individual in connection with the preparation of a false and fraudulent Federal Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2004, by falsely claiming a deduction for an education credit when BERBIC knew that the individual had never attended school.

In pleading guilty, BERBIC also acknowledged that, between 2002 and 2005, she assisted others in preparing 335 false tax returns, which resulted in underpayment or improper refunds totaling \$711,570.

BERBIC is scheduled to be sentenced by Chief United States District Judge Robert N. Chatigny on June 29, 2007, at which time BERBIC faces a maximum term of imprisonment of six years and a fine of up to \$250,000. BERBIC also must pay to the Internal Revenue Service back taxes, penalties and interest.

As to the individuals whom BERBIC assisted in filing their taxes, they are responsible for resolving their own tax liabilities with the Internal Revenue Service.

“Tax preparers and taxpayers who cheat the government will be investigated, and may very well be prosecuted,” U.S. Attorney O'Connor stated. “Also, individuals who have others prepare their returns must also be cautious and truthful, as the law requires each of us to sign our name to an accurate return, regardless of who prepares it.”

This case was investigated by special agents of the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James G. Genco.

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