



United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

September 6,
2007

WETHERSFIELD WOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR TAX FRAUD

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that SNEZANA BERBIC, age 39, of Wethersfield, Connecticut, was sentenced today by Chief United States District Judge Robert N. Chatigny in Hartford 12 months and one day of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release, the first nine months of which BERBIC must spend confined to her home. Judge Chatigny also ordered BERBIC to perform 200 hours of community service while on supervised release. On April 12, 2007, BERBIC pleaded guilty 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 has been ordered to pay to the Internal Revenue Service back taxes, penalties and interest related to her own tax liabilities. As to the individuals whom BERBIC assisted in filing their taxes, they are responsible for resolving their own tax liabilities with the IRS.

“Tax preparers and taxpayers who cheat the government face the very real possibility of federal prosecution and incarceration,” 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 the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James G. Genco.

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