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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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OWNER OF ACCOUNTING FIRM SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING INVESTORS OF \$1.3 MILLION AND FAILURE TO PAY OVER \$500,000 IN TAXES  
BALTIMORE, Maryland -- U.S. District Judge Andre M. Davis sentenced Wilkins McNair, Jr., age 49, of Ellicott City, Maryland today to 51 months in prison followed by five years of supervised release for wire fraud and money laundering in connection with a scheme to defraud investors in an obesity treatment clinic; and for failing to pay federal taxes and filing false tax returns in a separate scheme relating to his accounting firm, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Davis also ordered McNair to pay restitution of \$1.369 million to the investors.

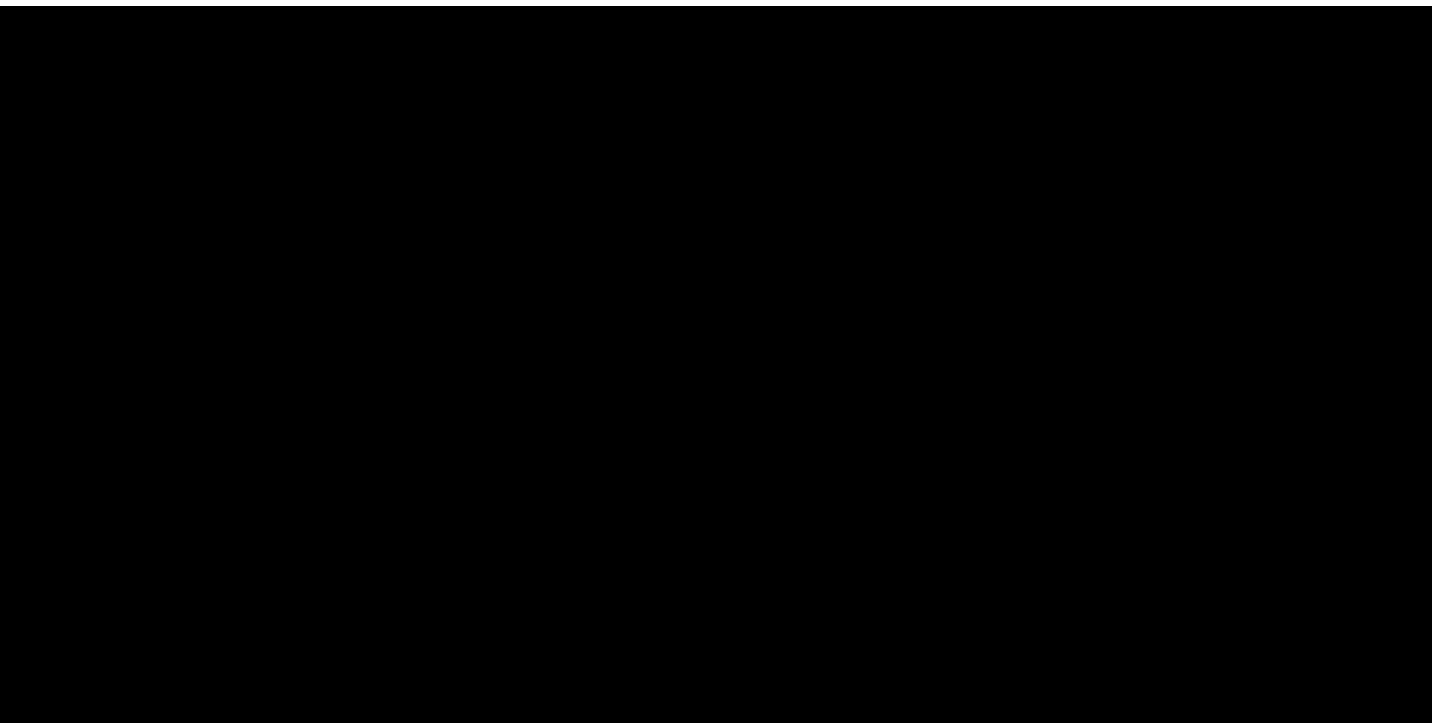
U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein said, "Mr. McNair defrauded innocent investors of more than \$1.3 million by spending their money for his personal benefit instead of investing in a legitimate business, as he represented he would do. He also cheated the taxpayers by depriving the IRS of more than \$560,000 in payroll and income taxes."

**Fraudulent Diversion of \$1.3 Million in Investor Funds**

According to his plea agreement, McNair, a certified public accountant and the owner of Wilkins McNair, P.C. (WMPC), an accounting firm formerly located at 201 North Charles Street in Baltimore, provided accounting and other financial services to Bariatric Care Associates, LLC, (BCA), a corporation established by several investors, including a surgeon and cardiologist, who intended to open a clinic treating patients who suffered from morbid obesity. McNair helped find additional investors to provide start-up funding for BCA, as well as provided accounting and other financial services to BCA.

The original group of BCA investors incorporated themselves under the name M.O.M. Investment Group, Inc. ("M.O.M."). The investors gave control of M.O.M. and its funds to McNair, who controlled M.O.M.'s bank accounts and appointed one of his family members as M.O.M.'s incorporator and registered agent. Between March 2004 and October 2005, five investors provided approximately \$1.550 million to M.O.M. and/or McNair to finance BCA's business operations. Most of these funds were provided by way of interstate wire transfers. Each of the investors executed escrow agreements with Wilkins McNair, P.C. authorizing it to conduct certain transactions with their funds for the benefit of the M.O.M. Investment Group and BCA. However, McNair used approximately \$1.3 million of the \$1.550 million entrusted to him by the M.O.M. investors for his personal benefit and to pay other expenses of his accounting firm.

**Failed to Pay \$566,940 in Taxes**



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