



# PRESS NOTICE

KEVIN F. MCDONALD  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 \* Columbia, SC 29201 \* (803) 929-3000\**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON: Nancy C. Wicker  
(803) 929-3000

## **UPSTATE FOOD BROKER AND FLORIDA ACCOUNTANT ARE SENTENCED IN INCOME TAX EVASION SCHEME**

Columbia, South Carolina---- Acting United States Attorney Kevin F. McDonald stated today that Michael W. Fuller, age 52, of Odessa, Florida, and Carl L. Perry, age 50, of Greenville, South Carolina, were sentenced today in federal court in Greenville, South Carolina, for their parts in a conspiracy to defraud the United States by evading taxes, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. Senior United States Circuit Judge William W. Wilkins, of Greenville, sitting by designation conducted the hearing.

Fuller, an accountant from Odessa, Florida, who was found guilty by a jury after a trial in July of 2007 was sentenced to a term of twelve months and one day in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. This active sentence is to be followed by six months in a half way house and twelve months of home confinement.

Perry, a foodbroker from Greenville, who pleaded guilty in May, 2007,

received a sentence of three years probation with conditions that require him to pay his back taxes as well as any penalties and interest that may be assessed.

Evidence presented during Fuller's trial revealed that during the period from the late nineties until the middle of 2001, Fuller conspired to assist Perry in the evasion of taxes. The evidence demonstrated that Fuller established a series of offshore trusts and entities through which Perry routed much of his income in order to conceal the income from the Internal Revenue Service. Fuller also set-up a credit card account with another offshore bank which was funded with Perry's untaxed income, thereby permitting Perry to use the untaxed income for his personal benefit. Fuller also supplied misleading tax returns and information to the IRS to conceal the scheme. Perry, who had pleaded guilty, testified for the Government during the trial.

At sentencing, Judge Wilkins told Fuller that he had to impose a sentence that would act as a deterrence to others who would attempt to do the same thing. The Judge commended Perry for his cooperation and took notice of the fact that not only had Perry pleaded guilty and testified at Fuller's trial but that he had also paid all of his back taxes and was cooperating with the IRS in settling the penalties and interest.

The case was investigated by Criminal Investigation agents of the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant United States Attorney William C. Lucius of the Greenville office handled the case.

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