



# Department of Justice

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## **TWO INDICTED FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE DESTROYING EVIDENCE**

COLUMBUS - A federal grand jury here has indicted Thomas E. Parenteau, of Columbus, Ohio, and Dennis G. Sartain, of Hilliard, Ohio, in a six-count indictment alleging that Parenteau and Sartain obstructed justice, tampered with a witness by influencing witness testimony and destroying and concealing evidence, and conspired to do the same between October 2005 and September 2008.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Nathan J. Hochman, Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division, and Jose Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Cincinnati Field Office, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation announced the Indictment, which was returned on September 16, 2008 and unsealed today. The case is before the Honorable Michael H. Watson, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

The Indictment charges Parenteau and Sartain with one conspiracy count, one count of obstruction of justice, one count of witness tampering by destroying evidence, and one count of witness tampering by influencing testimony. The remaining two counts charge Parenteau alone with one count of witness tampering by concealing evidence and one count of witness tampering by causing a witness to withhold testimony.

Parenteau has operated and controlled a number of Columbus-area businesses legally owned by his wife, including Advanced Precast Building Systems, LLC, Parenteau Builders, LLC, and MKP Investments, LLC. Sartain has been Parenteau's primary accountant since 2000. In October of 2005, the IRS Criminal Investigation Division disclosed to a Parenteau associate the existence of a criminal tax investigation into tax returns reporting business and real estate transactions in which both Parenteau that Sartain were involved. Sartain was indicted and subsequently pleaded guilty to all counts of a superseding indictment on February 4, 2008 for criminal tax and fraud offenses related to Parenteau entities and associates and his own tax returns. His sentencing is scheduled for October 27, 2008.

The indictment unsealed today alleges that, since learning of the criminal investigation in late 2005, Parenteau and Sartain have engaged in a scheme to obstruct the investigation and prosecution of Parenteau, Sartain, and others, and more recently, to obstruct the sentencing hearing of Sartain. The Indictment alleges that Parenteau and Sartain have destroyed evidence, concealed evidence, created false evidence intended to mislead the government and District Court during the investigation and at Sartain's sentencing hearing. The Indictment further alleges that Parenteau and Sartain have tampered with witness testimony by persuading a witness to make false statements to the government and District Court during the investigation and at Sartain's sentencing hearing. The Indictment also alleges that Parenteau alone has concealed evidence as well as tampered with witness testimony by attempting to cause a witness to withhold testimony at Sartain's sentencing hearing.

Each count of witness tampering carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment. The count of obstruction of justice carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment. The conspiracy count is punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment. Each count carries a fine of up to \$250,000. Parenteau faces a maximum sentence of 95 years imprisonment, a fine of \$1.5 million, and special

assessments of \$600. Sartain faces a maximum sentence of 55 years imprisonment, a fine of \$1 million, and special assessments of \$400.

An Indictment is merely an accusation. The defendants are presumed innocent of the charges and it is the government's burden to prove the defendants' guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This prosecution is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division Special Agent Erik Stevenson. The case is being prosecuted by U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division Trial Attorneys Richard M. Rolwing and Jill M. Cassara

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