

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney John B. Owens (619)557-5629

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 17, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Marjan Pousti pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego before United States District Judge Dana M. Sabraw to attempted tax evasion for the 2005 tax year.

As part of her guilty plea, Pousti admitted that she willfully evaded taxes that were due for the 2005 year. Defendant Pousti and her husband operated a cosmetic surgery business in San Diego County. Pousti was in charge of handling the books for the business, as well as any cash payments received. According to court records, Pousti began concealing from the Internal Revenue Service cash income that her family received from the business. Instead of depositing cash payments into a checking account or reporting them to the Internal Revenue Service (or to her family's personal accountant), she used the cash payments to purchase money orders from various United States Post Offices in San Diego County. Pousti used these money orders to pay bills, including mortgage payments. Pousti knew that if she purchased at least \$3,000

in money orders from a post office, she would be required to fill out a PS8105-A form, which would identify her by name, address, social security number, and driver's license. Pousti admitted that she carried out these transactions so she could avoid filling out the PS8105-A form, which would assist her efforts to evade the taxes due by hiding from law enforcement the true amount of cash that her family received from the business.

Pousti is scheduled to appear before Judge Sabraw for sentencing on October 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 08 CR 2194-DMS

MARJAN POUСТИ

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201 - Attempt to evade tax

Maximum penalties: Five years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

United States Postal Inspection Service

Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation