

NEWS RELEASE



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

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

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 2, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Pablo Amesquita, a self-employed tax preparer doing business as “Tax & Weddings,” located in San Ysidro, California, pled guilty yesterday in federal court in San Diego to two felony counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation and presentation of false tax returns for tax years 2005 and 2006. Amesquita entered his guilty plea before United States Magistrate Judge Jan M. Adler, subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge Michael M. Anello, at the time of sentencing.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph J.M. Orabona, who is prosecuting the case, Amesquita admitted in his guilty plea that in preparing tax returns for his clients for the 2005 and 2006 tax years, he knowing and willfully falsified and exaggerated itemized deductions claimed on the returns in an attempt to defeat a total of approximately \$65,096 and \$80,227 in additional taxes due and owing to the United States in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

“The government will vigorously investigate and prosecute those who engage in illegal tax avoidance either as filers or as tax preparers,” said United States Attorney Hewitt.

“Today's guilty plea is another example of IRS-Criminal Investigation's commitment to investigate those tax preparers who take advantage of the public,” said Catherine D. Tucker, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Los Angeles Field Office. “Those individuals who choose to undermine the honesty and integrity of our tax system, risk prosecution.”

Amesquita is scheduled to appear for acceptance of plea and sentencing before United States District Judge Michael M. Anello on June 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 09CR1129-MMA

Pablo Amesquita

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2) - Aiding and Assisting in the Preparation and Presentation of False Income Tax Returns

Maximum penalties per count: 3 years in prison; \$100,000 fine; and 1 year of supervised release.

PARTICIPATING AGENCY

Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation