



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and Eileen J. O'Connor, Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division, announced today that defendant, Juan Nelson Laines, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge T.S. Ellis III in Alexandria, Virginia, to a term of 33 months in prison and a term of two years of supervised release. Judge Ellis also ordered the defendant to pay the amount of \$401,000 as restitution. In August, Laines entered a plea of guilty to preparing false income tax returns, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2). Today at his sentencing, he claimed that he committed the crime to help the Latino community in Northern Virginia.

Laines was the owner and operator of an Arlington-based tax return preparation business known as Latino Tax Service. Between April 15, 2000 until at least April 15, 2002, Laines prepared and provided tax returns for many of his clients that claimed understated business income, overstated and fictitious deductions, and unentitled credits, thereby reducing his clients' tax liability or causing his clients to receive a larger tax refund than the refund to which they were entitled by law. In total, Laines prepared hundreds of false tax returns causing nearly a half million dollars in tax loss to the United States.

This case was investigated by Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation special agents and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael J. Elston and Andrew Lelling of the U.S. Attorney's Cybercrime Unit and Jeffrey A. Neiman of the Tax Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

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