

News Release

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



May 16, 2006

“Survivor” winner Richard Hatch
is sentenced to 51 months in prison for tax evasion

A federal judge today sentenced **Richard Hatch**, of Newport, to 51 months in prison for evading income taxes. In January, a jury found him guilty of tax evasion and filing a false return for not reporting to the IRS about \$1,428,000 that he earned from the “Survivor” television series and other sources.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente and Eileen J. O’Connor, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice Tax Division, jointly announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed today in U.S. District Court.

Judge Torres enhanced Hatch’s sentence for obstruction of justice. The government asked for that enhancement, arguing that Hatch perjured himself during the trial and failed to disclose assets to the Probation Office. Judge Torres also ordered Hatch to pay taxes that he owes for 2000 and 2001, which the IRS has calculated at \$474,971, plus interest and penalties.

“In addition to punishing this defendant, this sentence should serve as a warning to others who might think of dodging their tax obligations,” U.S. Attorney Corrente said. “Paying taxes is an ordeal but it is every citizen’s obligation to pay them honestly and

fully.”

“Our nation’s federal tax system is not a reality show to be outwitted, it is a reality, period,” said Eileen J. O’Connor, Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department’s Tax Division. “The Department of Justice is working vigorously to vindicate the interests of law-abiding taxpayers: tax cheats will be found out, prosecuted, and punished.”

Douglas A. Bricker, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation in New England said, “It is important for those of us who pay our taxes to know there are consequences when greed and arrogance interfere with obeying the law.”

During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich and Lee J. Vilker presented evidence that, after being paid \$1,010,000 for winning the first Survivor series in 2000, Hatch failed to report that income or pay taxes on it. Two accountants prepared returns that reflected the Survivor income but Hatch never filed either return. Instead, he filed an “informational” return that did not reflect the Survivor income, even though the accountant who prepared it had expressly cautioned him that the “informational” return was not to be filed.

Hatch also failed to report other income for 2000 and 2001: \$27,074, representing the value of a Pontiac Aztec given to him as part of his Survivor prize; \$321,139 that Entercom, Boston, LLC paid Hatch, through an S-corporation, for radio appearances; \$27,698 in rental income; and \$36,500 in charitable donations to Hatch’s foundation, Horizon Bound.

Hatch has been detained since the conclusion of the trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Reich and Vilker prosecuted the case. The Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation conducted the investigation.

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