



## United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

April 5, 2007

### STAMFORD LAWYER PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that attorney JOSEPH RICHICHI, age 60, of Stamford, Connecticut, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Stefan R. Underhill in Bridgeport to one count of tax evasion.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, RICHICHI evaded paying taxes on more than \$1.8 million he earned from the practice of law during the years 2000 through and including 2005. In total, RICHICHI admitted that he failed to pay more than \$600,000 in taxes that were due for those tax years.

Judge Underhill has scheduled sentencing for October 22, 2007, at which time RICHICHI faces a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$100,000, as well as the costs of prosecution. RICHICHI is also required to pay restitution in the amount of \$614,231 to the Internal Revenue Service. Since this investigation was initiated, RICHICHI has paid \$614,231 to the IRS, and \$763,076.37 in civil fraud penalties and interest.

“As tax filing day approaches, this case should warn those who choose to evade the payment of their taxes in an effort to abuse our system of tax compliance that they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law,” U.S. Attorney O'Connor stated.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Senior Litigation Counsel Richard J. Schechter and Assistant United States Attorney Harold H. Chen.

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