



## Department of Justice

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Return to the [2007 Press Release Index](#)

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#### **LAKE FOREST BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS 5 MONTHS FOR \$2.4 MILLION TAX EVASION SCHEME**

##### **FORFEITS OVER \$1 MILLION IN ASSETS TO THE I.R.S.**

– Hid almost \$1 million in luxury autos, jewels, and a 72' Florida yacht

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Larry H. Joel**, age 61, of Louisville, Kentucky, was sentenced to 3 years and 5 months imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for evasion of the payment of federal income taxes and conspiracy to defraud the I.R.S., David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Cleve Daniels, Special Agent In Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, Nashville Field Office, announced today.

Charles R. Simpson III, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Ross to 3 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

**Joel** pleaded guilty on February 2, 2007, two days before he was to be tried, to evading the payment of nearly \$2.4 million in federal income taxes dating back to 1991. **Joel** owed the I.R.S. these taxes based on audits of his 1991 through 1994 income tax returns. In particular, the I.R.S. discovered that in 1991 he failed to report on his federal income taxes over \$7 million dollars that he received from a consulting agreement. The consulting agreement was part of a 1991 sale of a business, Ophthalmic Research Group International, partially owned by **Joel** that he sold to Pearl Vision in 1991. In addition, **Joel's** 1992 through 1994 federal income taxes were audited by the I.R.S. and it was determine that he owed respectively \$15,597, \$49,001, and \$87,269 in additional taxes for these years.

In 1998, **Joel** agreed with the I.R.S. audits of his 1991 through 1994 federal income tax returns. Since that time, however, **Joel** has evaded the payment of these taxes by hiding his income and assets from the I.R.S. through various sham trusts.

The Second Superseding Indictment to which **Joel** pleaded guilty charges him with multiple affirmative acts of tax evasion occurring between 1995 and continuing through 2004. In the Plea Agreement, **Joel** admitted to using a number of financial schemes to hide his ownership of assets and receipt of income. These schemes included his use of shame trusts, nominee corporations, nominee bank accounts, and various other fraudulent means of holding and titling assets. In particular, **Joel** has used a trust to conceal his ownership of a 72' Leopard Sport yacht docked in St. Petersburg, Florida. He also fraudulently used various business entities, including Sunshine Motorcar Company, GM Leasing, and Red Carpet Leasing, to hide his ownership of luxury motor vehicles including a 1992 Lincoln Town Car limousine; two 2002 Cadillac Escalades; a 1997 Jag