



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
YUSILL SCRIBNER  
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600**

**COLD SPRING YOGA INSTRUCTOR  
PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that RICHARD O. VILLELLA pleaded guilty today, in Manhattan federal court, to one count of federal tax evasion. According to the Information charging VILLELLA, other court documents, and VILLELLA's guilty plea:

During the relevant period, VILLELLA was a yoga instructor working both as a freelance, private instructor and for various yoga instruction companies based in New York, New York, in which companies VILLELLA had some ownership interest. As a yoga instructor, VILLELLA was paid compensation for the services he performed, but the yoga instruction companies that paid VILLELLA for his services did not issue VILLELLA IRS Forms 1099 or W-2 during this period. VILLELLA also agreed with private individuals and with certain clients of the yoga instruction companies for which he worked that he would be paid for lessons in cash rather than by check or other means. Furthermore, VILLELLA deposited this cash into bank accounts and trusts in the names of entities and individuals other than his own name. VILLELLA also failed to file Individual United States Income Tax Returns, Forms 1040, for the calendar years 1996, 1997, and 1998. VILLELLA admitted to evading income tax for those years, as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Taxable Income</b>	<b>Tax Due and Owing</b>	<b>Due Date of Income Tax Return</b>
1996	\$170,785	\$63,140	4/15/1997
1997	\$ 55,085	\$22,482	4/15/1998
1998	\$ 34,555	\$13,132	4/15/1999

VILLELLA, 48, lives in Cold Spring, New York, and faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison. He pleaded guilty before the Honorable DOUGLAS F. EATON, United States Magistrate Judge, and is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge ROBERT W. SWEET on a date to be set.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service for its work in the investigation and prosecution of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney ANTHONY S. BARKOW is in charge of the prosecution.

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