



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

José de Jesus Rivera

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2001

For Information Contact Public Affairs

Jennie Larsen (602) 514-7583

PHOENIX DOCTOR SENTENCED FOR BANKRUPTCY FRAUD, HEALTH CARE FRAUD, AND FILING A FALSE TAX RETURN

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- United States Attorney José de Jesus Rivera announced that **JEROME ROCHLIN** of Phoenix, a Doctor of Osteopathy, was sentenced today by U. S. District Court Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix, Arizona to five years probation and fined \$40,000 on one count each of bankruptcy fraud, health care fraud, and filing a false individual income tax return.

According to plea agreement filed on March 15, 2001, ROCHLIN knowingly and willfully omitted real estate and jewelry valued between \$250,000-\$300,000 from a voluntary bankruptcy petition he filed for a Title 11 proceeding with the Bankruptcy Court in January 1997, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 157.

ROCHLIN also knowingly and willfully filed a false 1996 Form 1040A in April 1997 that did not include approximately \$20,000 of personal expenses that had been paid by his medical practice, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 77206(1).

In addition, in June 1999, ROCHLIN knowingly and wilfully filed a false statement with a health care benefit program for a claim of approximately \$2,500 for a patient x-ray that he knew was taken by an unlicensed medical assistant, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1035.

(MORE)

For these three counts, ROCHLIN could have been sentenced to a combined term of imprisonment of 13 years, a maximum fine of \$750,000, or a maximum period of supervised release of three years, or all three combined.

According to the plea agreement, ROCHLIN also agreed to the following:

- To relinquish all right and title to the assets that should have been reported in the bankruptcy proceeding.
- To be permanently excluded as an eligible provider for CHAMPUS, Medicare, Medicaid, and any other program with a federal pay source.
- To give up his osteopathic license.

This investigation was conducted by special agents of the Phoenix Field Office of IRS Criminal Investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Health & Human Services Office of the Inspector General. The prosecution was conducted by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

RELEASE: 2001-022

#

(MORE)