

Department of Justice

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ROCHESTER TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO PREPARING AND FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- Erdal Erol, age 40, of Rochester, New York, pleaded guilty on March 26, 2009, before U.S. District Court Judge Charles J. Siragusa, to a felony information charging him with one count of filing a false federal tax return, Acting U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 3 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who handled the case, stated that the defendant, Erdal Erol owned and operated Erol Consulting, a tax preparation and tax consulting business, located at 1914 East Ridge Road in Rochester, New York. During the years 2002 through 2005, the defendant prepared and filed with the IRS, twenty-five false tax returns for his clients, which resulted in false refunds being issued by the IRS. The total tax loss to the IRS was \$62,537.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division, under the direction of Patricia Haynes, Special Agent in Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 8, 2009, in Rochester, NY, in front of U.S. District Court Judge Charles J. Siragusa.