

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD AND FALSE STATEMENTS TO THE IRS

BUFFALO, N.Y.- ANTONIO JONES, 41, of New Jersey, pleaded guilty before Chief Judge Richard J. Arcara, U.S. District Court, to a felony charge of aiding in the filing of false tax returns, Acting U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. This charge carries a maximum penalty of 3 years imprisonment, a fine of \$100,000, or both.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Cindy C. Majewski, who handled the case, stated that the defendant engaged in a scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service by recruiting individuals in Western New York, providing such individuals with a false Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, showing fraudulently stated income and taxes withheld, then accompanied such individuals to the tax preparer's office where the false Form W-2 was used to claim an Earned Income Tax Credit. The defendant would then facilitate the cashing of the refund check generated from the false income tax return, keeping the majority of the proceeds.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, under the direction of Special Agent-In-Charge Patricia J. Haynes.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 31, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Chief Judge Richard J. Arcara, U.S. District Court.