



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL TAX EVASION CHARGES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – The United States Attorney's office for the District of Arizona announced today that BURNETT W. WATKINS, formerly of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 24 months in federal custody, by United States District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt.

On August 7, 2000, WATKINS agreed to plead guilty to counts 6 and 7 of a superseding indictment charging him with federal income tax evasion, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, for the years 1994 and 1995. WATKINS could have received up to 5 years in prison or a maximum fine of \$250,000, or both, for each count.

According to the plea agreement, WATKINS knowingly and willfully failed to declare and pay federal income tax of approximately \$492,634 for the years 1994 and 1995, which he received through his various companies, including SECURE INVESTMENTS and LINJUD.

Judge Rosenblatt also ordered WATKINS to serve a three-year term of supervised release following his incarceration.

This investigation was conducted jointly by agents of the Phoenix Field Office of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Mark Aspey, Assistant United States Attorney.

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