



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TAX RETURN PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX CHARGES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that KENNETH SKOUSEN, age 63, a Mesa, Arizona, tax return preparer, pled guilty before U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt, to an Information charging him with two counts of knowingly filing false Federal individual income tax returns for the years 1994 and 1995, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

According to the Plea Agreement, SKOUSEN filed a Form 1040 for the year 1994 on which he under-reported his gross income by approximately \$77,079. For 1995, SKOUSEN filed a Form 1040 on which he omitted approximately \$77,257 in income. The unreported income for these two years consisted of commissions SKOUSEN received from two of his tax clients for assistance he provided them in diverting income into a foreign corporation's bank accounts for use in paying personal expenses.

The Plea Agreement further states that as a special condition of any supervised release or probation, SKOUSEN is prohibited from preparing tax returns for others.

SKOUSEN faces a maximum sentence of three years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, on each count.

Sentencing is set before Judge Rosenblatt on September 10, 2001.

(MORE)

The investigation in this case was conducted by Special Agents of the Phoenix Field Office of IRS Criminal Investigation.

The prosecution is being handled by Stephen W. Laramore, Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section, United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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