



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Los Angeles Field Office
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Former Costa Mesa Resident Sentenced to 30 Months in Federal Prison for Preparing Fraudulent Tax Returns

SANTA ANA – A return preparer with a long career of preparing tax returns and advising clients who had tax cases with the IRS was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge Cormac J. Carney to 30 months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to charges that he prepared and filed with the Internal Revenue Service fraudulent tax returns on behalf of clients seeking large tax refunds from the government.

Ronald Vernon Strawn, 69, formerly of Costa Mesa, was further ordered by Judge Carney to pay restitution of \$1,992,244 to the IRS and spend one year on supervised release following his prison term.

In July of 2013, Strawn pleaded guilty to three counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of fraudulent tax returns. The three counts to which Strawn pleaded guilty relate to the 2005 and 2006 federal income tax returns filed on behalf of clients which included false business losses, reducing the taxpayers' taxable income by as much as \$201,500 per return.

Strawn has remained in federal custody since his arrest in Arizona in April of 2012.

The investigation and prosecution of Strawn was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation's Los Angeles Field Office, in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

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