



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Special Agent in Charge Kathy A. Enstrom*

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LOCAL MAN SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE CLAIMS FOR INCOME TAX REFUNDS WITH THE IRS

CINCINNATI – Michael Bartlett, 35, of Cincinnati, Ohio was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison followed by three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$607,602 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for filing false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS. Bartlett previously pleaded guilty this charge on June 25, 2013.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, announced the sentence handed down today by Senior U.S. District Judge Herman J. Weber.

According to court documents, between 2008 and 2011 Bartlett prepared and filed false joint individual federal income tax returns. The income tax returns included false Forms W-2, which claimed that Bartlett was employed by Siemens Business Services. Bartlett had formerly worked at Siemens Business Services from 2002 through 2005, but he did not work at Siemens Business Services from 2008 through 2011.

Each of the 2008 through 2011 income tax returns falsely claimed that Bartlett earned hundreds of thousands of dollars in wage income and falsely claimed that Bartlett had large amounts of federal income taxes withheld, entitling him to the false income tax refunds.

In total, Bartlett claimed false income tax refunds in the amount of \$607,602 for the 2008 through 2011 income tax years (\$89,939 for 2008; \$172,027 for 2009; \$147,407 for 2010; and \$198,229 for 2011).

The false income tax refunds were deposited into two personal bank accounts. One of the bank accounts was in the name of Bartlett and his wife and the other bank account was in the name of Bartlett's wife.

"Mr. Bartlett perpetrated this scheme to systematically defraud the government and the taxpaying public," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take very seriously. IRS Criminal Investigation will

continue to vigorously pursue those who unjustly enrich themselves by preparing false claims for refunds."

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Benjamin C. Glassman and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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