



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Newark Field Office
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TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO PREPARING FALSE TAX RETURNS FOR CLIENTS

Camden, N.J. –The chief operating officer for an insurance and tax preparation business located in Newark, N.J. and Parlin, N.J., pleaded guilty today to conspiring to prepare false tax returns for clients.

Eric Amankwah, 43, a resident of Irvington, N.J., entered his plea in Camden federal court before U. S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman. Sentencing is scheduled for July 24, 2015.

“Tax return preparers have a duty to their clients to prepare tax returns that comply with the law and are complete and accurate,” stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “As we near the April 15 tax filing deadline, today’s guilty plea by Mr. Amankwah should serve as a reminder that IRS-Criminal Investigation takes these violations of law very seriously.”

According to court documents and statements made in court:

Amankwah was the chief operating officer for BKB Financial Center, Inc. (BKB), located in Newark, N.J. and Legon Financial Services Group LLC (Legon), located in Parlin, N.J. Both businesses provided insurance and tax preparation to clients. Amankwah and others conspired to prepare false tax returns on behalf of clients in order to obtain fraudulent refunds for their clients and generate fees for themselves.

Specifically, Amankwah and others prepared and caused to be filed tax returns with the IRS that claimed false Schedule A deductions, false Schedule C businesses, false

tuition and fee expenses and false child care expenses. These fraudulent returns caused a tax loss to the IRS in the amount of approximately \$63,000.

The conspiracy charge carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of five years and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense.

The investigation was conducted by IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jonathan D. Larsen and the U.S. Attorney's Office, under the direction of U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joyce M. Malliet.

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