



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Newark Field Office
Special Agent in Charge Jonathan D. Larsen

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ESSEX COUNTY LAWYER PLEADS GUILTY TO FAILING TO FILE TAX RETURNS

Newark, N.J. –The owner of a law firm in Newark, N.J., pleaded guilty today to failing to file tax returns.

Stephanie Hand, 51, a resident of Essex County, N.J., entered her plea in Newark federal court before U. S. District Judge William H. Walls. Hand pleaded guilty to a two count information that charges her with failing to file tax returns for the years 2008 and 2009. Sentencing is scheduled for December 15, 2015.

“Most individuals file truthful tax returns voluntarily and pay their share of taxes,” stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “IRS special agents are doing their job to ensure the honest individuals do not have to pick up the tab of those people not filing their returns.”

According to court documents and statements made in court:

Hand was the owner and operator of Hand Little, LLC, a law firm located in Newark, N.J. During the 2008 and 2009 tax years, Hand earned gross income of approximately \$213,097 and \$112,988 respectively. Having earned this income, Hand had a legal obligation to file a tax return for 2008 and 2009. Even though Hand knew she had to file tax returns for these years, she intentionally chose not to file them. By failing to file tax returns for 2008 and 2009, Hand caused a tax loss to the government of approximately \$50,588.

Each count of failing to file a tax return carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of one year and a statutory maximum fine of \$25,000.

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 Joseph Shumofsky.

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Defense Counsel: Thomas R. Ashley, Esq., Newark, N.J.