

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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***For Immediate Release***

***JANUARY 17, 2007***

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 17, 2007, **ERIC DEAN TROUTT**, age 40 of Sandoval, Illinois, pled guilty to the offenses of Tax Evasion and Making a False Statement to a Financial Institution. The offenses carry a total statutory maximum possible punishment of up to thirty-five years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,250,000, five years supervised release, and mandatory restitution. Sentencing is scheduled for April 16, 2007.

**ERIC DEAN TROUTT** admitted as part of the plea that he evaded the assessment of federal income tax on his 2003 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return by not reporting approximately \$200,000 he received as payment for legal services, by filing a false tax return, and by using a trust account to conceal the income. **ERIC DEAN TROUTT** used the unreported income to purchase luxury vehicles, real estate property, and luxury furniture as well as other various purchases, including credit card and student loan payments. **ERIC DEAN TROUTT** also admitted as part of the plea that he filed a false Uniform Loan Application with Old National Bank. **ERIC DEAN TROUTT** applied for a home mortgage with Old National Bank and falsified his loan application to influence the bank and gain approval of his mortgage loan.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Office of Criminal Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.

If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with the tax laws, you may report this activity by contacting the local Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigation Office at (618) 622-2160 or by mailing information to:

Internal Revenue Service  
Fresno, CA 93888

Please include the following information, if available:

Name and address of the person you are reporting

The taxpayer identification number (social security number for an individual or employer identification number for a business)

A brief description of the alleged violation, including how you became aware of or obtained the information

The years involved

The estimated dollar amount of any unreported income

Your name, address and daytime telephone number

*Although you are not required to identify yourself, it is helpful to do so. Your identity can be kept confidential. You may also be entitled to a reward.*