

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

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BRONX TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO PREPARING 30 FALSE INCOME TAX RETURNS

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ALBERT D. CHANG, JR. pleaded guilty today to preparing 30 false income tax returns for clients of a tax preparation business he ran out of his residence in the Bronx, New York. According to the felony Information to which CHANG pleaded and statements made during CHANG's guilty plea before United States Magistrate Judge ANDREW PECK:

From 2002 through 2004, CHANG, on multiple occasions, knowingly included false items on tax returns he prepared for clients of his tax preparation business. The false items on the returns led to increased refunds for his clients, and included:

1) fraudulent deductions for purported unreimbursed employment-related expenses; 2) inflated business losses or losses incurred by fictitious businesses; and 3) inflated or fictitious income tax withholding. CHANG included false or inflated business losses and false deductions on these thirty tax returns totaling approximately \$760,000.

CHANG pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns. He faces up to 3 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, or twice the pecuniary gain or loss resulting from the crime. Sentencing is set for April 18, 2008.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, and thanked them for their assistance in this case.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's Major Crimes Unit. Special Assistant United States Attorney ANDREW KAMEROS is in charge of the prosecution.

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