



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2008**

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**FORMER SEWING COMPANY OWNER SENTENCED FOR  
PAYROLL AND INCOME TAX VIOLATIONS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that KEVIN WENG, former owner of Maple Corp. ("Maple"), was sentenced earlier today to four years of probation, including one year of home confinement, on payroll tax charges. United States District Judge DENNY CHIN, who imposed the sentence, also ordered WENG to pay \$124,151.36 of taxes and, prior to sentencing, WENG paid an additional \$200,000 of taxes that had been evaded. WENG pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court on June 23, 2008. According to the Information and statements made in open court during the defendant's guilty plea and sentencing:

WENG owned, operated, and controlled Manhattan-based Maple Corp., a company engaged in the business of performing sewing work for garment companies located in Manhattan, among other places.

From about 2003 through late 2006, WENG received checks from customers of Maple but, rather than depositing all of these checks in a business bank account of Maple or in personal bank accounts controlled by WENG, WENG cashed most of these checks at check-cashing establishments located in Manhattan. WENG thereafter used the cash to pay his employees, without having withheld payroll taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act and without having accounted for and paid over to the IRS the required payroll taxes on the cash wages. The evaded payroll taxes were equal to 15.3% of the cash wages.

From 2003 through 2006, WENG paid over \$2.1 million of cash wages. WENG paid wages in cash and without withholdings, in part, because paying employees "on the books" would disqualify the employees from receiving welfare and health benefits from public sources.

Over the course of his conduct, WENG evaded and failed to collect payroll taxes of over \$324,000.

WENG, 37, resides in Oakland Gardens, New York.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

The case is being handled by the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL W. LEVY is in charge of this prosecution.

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