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United States of America
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COUR
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CASE NO. 2:14-CR-0

CASE NO. 2:14-CR-00334-KJM

Plaintiff.

PLEA AGREEMENT

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

v.

DATE: JULY 22, 2015

WILLIAM G. GREEN,

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

COURT: Hon. Kimberly J. Mueller

Defendant.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Α. **Scope of Agreement.**

The Indictment in this case charges the defendant with violation(s) of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) – Aiding or Assisting in the Preparation and Presentation of False and Fraudulent Tax Returns (Counts One through Thirteen). This document contains the complete plea agreement between the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California (the "government") and the defendant regarding this case. This plea agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and cannot bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

В. **Court Not a Party.**

The Court is not a party to this plea agreement. Sentencing is a matter solely within the discretion of the Court, and the Court may take into consideration any and all facts and circumstances

concerning the criminal activities of defendant, including activities which may not have been charged in the Indictment. The Court is under no obligation to accept any recommendations made by the government, and the Court may in its discretion impose any sentence it deems appropriate up to and including the statutory maximum stated in this plea agreement.

If the Court should impose any sentence up to the maximum established by the statute, the defendant cannot, for that reason alone, withdraw his guilty plea, and he will remain bound to fulfill all of the obligations under this plea agreement. The defendant understands that neither the prosecutor, defense counsel, nor the Court can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence he will receive.

II. <u>DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS</u>

A. Guilty Plea.

The defendant will plead guilty to Count Two, a violation of U.S.C. § 7206(2) – Aiding or Assisting in the Preparation and Presentation of False and Fraudulent Tax Returns. The defendant agrees that he is in fact guilty of these charges and that the facts set forth in the Factual Basis for Plea attached hereto as Exhibit A are accurate.

The defendant agrees that this plea agreement will be filed with the Court and become a part of the record of the case. The defendant understands and agrees that he will not be allowed to withdraw his plea(s) should the Court not follow the government's sentencing recommendations.

The defendant agrees that the statements made by him in signing this Agreement, including the factual admissions set forth in the factual basis, shall be admissible and useable against the defendant by the United States in any subsequent criminal or civil proceedings, even if the defendant fails to enter a guilty plea pursuant to this Agreement. The defendant waives any rights under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410, to the extent that these rules are inconsistent with this paragraph or with this Agreement generally.

B. Restitution.

The defendant agrees to pay full restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the approximate amount of \$223,386.67. Any restitution paid to the IRS shall be credited by the IRS against any amount which the defendant owes the IRS, in accordance with standard IRS procedure.

Nothing in this agreement shall limit the IRS in its lawful examination, determination, assessment, or collection of any taxes, penalties or interest due from the defendant for the time period(s) covered by this agreement or any other time period.

The defendant understands that this agreement does not relieve the defendant from any legal obligation to pay additional amounts due and owing to the IRS. The defendant understands that nothing in this agreement restricts the United States or the IRS from initiating any collection or civil enforcement action relating thereto, nor does this agreement bar the defendant from civilly contesting any liabilities determined by the IRS, or bar the defendant from exercising his rights in collection proceedings as provided by the Internal Revenue code and standard IRS procedure. The defendant understands that the factual basis of this plea agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California in this criminal case, and does not bind any agency of the United States in any other judicial, administrative, or other proceeding.

Defendant further agrees that he will not seek to discharge any restitution obligation or any part of such obligation in any bankruptcy proceeding.

Restitution payments shall be by cashier's or certified check made payable to the Clerk of the Court. The Clerk of the Court shall remit restitution payments to the following address until further notice: IRS RACS, Attn: Mail Stop 6261, Restitution 333 W. Pershing Ave. Kansas City, MO 64108.

C. Fine.

The defendant agrees to pay any criminal fine ordered by the Court. However, the parties agree that no fine is appropriate in this case.

D. Special Assessment.

The defendant agrees to pay a special assessment of \$100 at the time of sentencing by delivering a check or money order payable to the United States District Court to the United States Probation Office immediately before the sentencing hearing. The defendant understands that this plea agreement is voidable at the option of the government if he fails to pay the assessment prior to that hearing.

E. <u>Violation of Plea Agreement by Defendant/Withdrawal of Plea(s).</u>

If the defendant, cooperating or not, violates this plea agreement in any way, withdraws his plea, or tries to withdraw his plea, this plea agreement is voidable at the option of the government. The

government will no longer be bound by its representations to the defendant concerning the limits on criminal prosecution and sentencing as set forth herein. One way a cooperating defendant violates the plea agreement is to commit any crime or provide any statement or testimony which proves to be knowingly false, misleading, or materially incomplete. Any post-plea conduct by a defendant constituting obstruction of justice will also be a violation of the agreement. The determination whether the defendant has violated the plea agreement will be under a probable cause standard.

If the defendant violates the plea agreement, withdraws his plea, or tries to withdraw his plea, the government shall have the right (1) to prosecute the defendant on any of the counts to which he pleaded guilty; (2) to reinstate any counts that may be dismissed pursuant to this plea agreement; and (3) to file any new charges that would otherwise be barred by this plea agreement. The defendant shall thereafter be subject to prosecution for any federal criminal violation of which the government has knowledge, including perjury, false statements, and obstruction of justice. The decision to pursue any or all of these options is solely in the discretion of the United States Attorney's Office.

By signing this plea agreement, the defendant agrees to waive any objections, motions, and defenses that the defendant might have to the government's decision. Any prosecutions that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations as of the date of this plea agreement may be commenced in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this plea agreement and the commencement of any such prosecutions. The defendant agrees not to raise any objections based on the passage of time with respect to such counts including, but not limited to, any statutes of limitation or any objections based on the Speedy Trial Act or the Speedy Trial Clause of the Sixth Amendment to any counts that were not time-barred as of the date of this plea agreement.

In addition, (1) all statements made by the defendant to the government or other designated law enforcement agents, or any testimony given by the defendant before a grand jury or other tribunal, whether before or after this plea agreement, shall be admissible in evidence in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceedings hereafter brought against the defendant; and (2) the defendant shall assert no claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, or any other federal rule, that statements made by

the defendant before or after this plea agreement, or any leads derived therefrom, should be suppressed. By signing this plea agreement, the defendant waives any and all rights in the foregoing respects.

F. Asset Disclosure.

The defendant agrees to make a full and complete disclosure of his assets and financial condition, and will complete the United States Attorney's Office's "Authorization to Release Information" and "Financial Affidavit" within five (5) weeks from the entry of the defendant's change of plea. The defendant also agrees to have the Court enter an order to that effect. The defendant understands that this plea agreement is voidable at the option of the government if the defendant fails to complete truthfully and provide the described documentation to the United States Attorney's office within the allotted time.

G. Agreement to Cooperate.

The defendant agrees to cooperate fully with the government and any other federal, state, or local law enforcement agency, as directed by the government. As used in this plea agreement, "cooperation" requires the defendant: (1) to respond truthfully and completely to all questions, whether in interviews, in correspondence, telephone conversations, before a grand jury, or at any trial or other court proceeding; (2) to attend all meetings, grand jury sessions, trials, and other proceedings at which the defendant's presence is requested by the government or compelled by subpoena or court order; (3) to produce voluntarily any and all documents, records, or other tangible evidence requested by the government; (4) not to participate in any criminal activity while cooperating with the government; and (5) to disclose to the government the existence and status of all money, property, or assets, of any kind, derived from or acquired as a result of, or used to facilitate the commission of, the defendant's illegal activities or the illegal activities of any conspirators.

III. THE GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATIONS

A. <u>Dismissals.</u>

The government agrees to move, at the time of sentencing, to dismiss without prejudice the remaining counts in the pending Indictment. The government also agrees not to reinstate any dismissed count except if this agreement is voided as set forth herein, or as provided in paragraphs II.E (Violation of Plea Agreement by Defendant/Withdrawal of Plea(s)), III.B.3 (Reduction of Sentence for

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B. <u>Recommendations.</u>

1. **Incarceration Range.**

The government will recommend that the defendant be sentenced to the low end of the applicable guideline range as determined by the Court.

2. Acceptance of Responsibility.

The government will recommend a two-level reduction (if the offense level is less than 16) or a three-level reduction (if the offense level reaches 16) in the computation of his offense level if the defendant clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility for his conduct as defined in U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1. This includes the defendant meeting with and assisting the probation officer in the preparation of the pre-sentence report, being truthful and candid with the probation officer, and not otherwise engaging in conduct that constitutes obstruction of justice within the meaning of U.S.S.G § 3C1.1, either in the preparation of the pre-sentence report or during the sentencing proceeding.

Cooperation), VI.B (Guidelines Calculations), and VII.B (Waiver of Appeal and Collateral Attack)

3. Reduction of Sentence for Cooperation.

The government agrees to recommend at the time of sentencing that the defendant's sentence of imprisonment be reduced by up to 50% of the applicable guideline sentence if he provides substantial assistance to the government, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1. The defendant understands that it is within the sole and exclusive discretion of the government to determine whether the defendant has provided substantial assistance. The defendant understands that he must comply with paragraphs II.G and not violate this plea agreement as set forth in paragraph II.E herein.

The defendant understands that the government may recommend a reduction in his sentence of less than 50% or no reduction at all; depending upon the level of assistance the government determines that the defendant has provided.

The defendant further understands that a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 is only a recommendation and is not binding on the Court, that this plea agreement confers no right upon the defendant to require that the government make a § 5K1.1 motion, and that this plea agreement confers no remedy upon the defendant in the event that the government declines to make a § 5K1.1 motion. In

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particular, the defendant agrees not to try to file a motion to withdraw his guilty plea(s) based on the fact that the government decides not to recommend a sentence reduction or recommends a sentence reduction less than the defendant thinks is appropriate.

If the government determines that the defendant has provided further cooperation within one year following sentencing, the government may move for a further reduction of his sentence pursuant to Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

C. <u>Use of Information for Sentencing.</u>

The government is free to provide full and accurate information to the Court and Probation, including answering any inquiries made by the Court and/or Probation and rebutting any inaccurate statements or arguments by the defendant, his attorney, Probation, or the Court. The defendant also understands and agrees that nothing in this Plea Agreement bars the government from defending on appeal or collateral review any sentence that the Court may impose.

Further, other than as set forth above, the government agrees that any incriminating information provided by the defendant during his cooperation will not be used in determining the applicable guideline range, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8., unless the information is used to respond to representations made to the Court by the defendant, or on his behalf, that contradict information provided by the defendant during his cooperation.

IV. <u>ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE</u>

At a trial, the government would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the following elements of the offense(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty, 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) – Aiding or Assisting in the Preparation and Presentation of False and Fraudulent Tax Returns:

- First, the defendant aided, assisted, advised, procured, or counseled R.B. in the preparation or presentation of an income tax return that was false or fraudulent;
- Second, the income tax return was false or fraudulent as to any material matter necessary to a determination of whether income tax was owed; and
- Third, the defendant acted willfully.

The government is not required to prove that the taxpayer knew that the return was false. A matter is material if it had a natural tendency to influence, or was capable of influencing, the decisions

or activities of the Internal Revenue Service.

The defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crimes charged in the Indictment to which he is pleading guilty, together with the possible defenses thereto, and has discussed them with his attorney.

V. <u>MAXIMUM SENTENCE</u>

A. Maximum Penalty.

The maximum sentence that the Court can impose is 3 years of incarceration, a fine of \$100,000, a 1 year period of supervised release and a special assessment of \$100. By signing this plea agreement, the defendant also agrees that the Court can order the payment of restitution for the full loss caused by the defendant's wrongful conduct. The defendant agrees that the restitution order is not restricted to the amounts alleged in the specific count(s) to which he is pleading guilty. The defendant further agrees, as noted above, that he will not attempt to discharge in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding any restitution imposed by the Court.

B. <u>Violations of Supervised Release.</u>

The defendant understands that if he violates a condition of supervised release at any time during the term of supervised release, the Court may revoke the term of supervised release and require the defendant to serve up to 1 additional year imprisonment.

VI. <u>SENTENCING DETERMINATION</u>

A. Statutory Authority.

The defendant understands that the Court must consult the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and must take them into account when determining a final sentence. The defendant understands that the Court will determine a non-binding and advisory guideline sentencing range for this case pursuant to the Sentencing Guidelines and must take them into account when determining a final sentence. The defendant further understands that the Court will consider whether there is a basis for departure from the guideline sentencing range (either above or below the guideline sentencing range) because there exists an aggravating or mitigating circumstance of a kind, or to a degree, not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission in formulating the Guidelines. The defendant further understands that the Court, after consultation and consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines, must

impose a sentence that is reasonable in light of the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

B. <u>Stipulations Affecting Guideline Calculation.</u>

The government and the defendant agree that there is no material dispute as to the following sentencing guidelines variables and therefore stipulate to the following:

- 1. **Base Offense Level:** 20. The tax loss with relevant conduct exceeds \$400,000. USSG § 2T1.1.
- 2. **Specific Offense Characteristics:** +2. The defendant was in the business of preparing or assisting in the preparation of tax returns. USSG § 2T1.4(b)(1)(B).
- 3. **Adjusted Offense Level: 22**
- 4. **Acceptance of Responsibility:** See paragraph III.B.2 above
- 5. **Criminal History:** I
- 6. **Estimated Sentencing Range:** 30-37 months
- 7. **Departures or Other Enhancements or Reductions:** In light of anticipated changes to the Tax Table in the United States Sentencing Guidelines (USSG § 2T4.1) that are scheduled to go into effect on November 1, 2015, the United States agrees to recommend pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) that defendant be sentenced based upon a sentencing range of **24-30 months**. This is to account for the fact that under the revised guidelines, the estimated tax loss in this case of \$492,000 would result in a base offense level of 18, which is two levels lower than under the Sentencing Guidelines in effect at the time of this plea agreement. This adjustment in the sentence recommended by the government is intended to give the defendant the full benefit of the expected forthcoming changes to Guideline § 2T4.1. For his part, defendant agrees that this plea agreement in effect therefore gives him the full benefit of the forthcoming change to Guideline § 2T4.1, and he agrees not to seek any further reduction or modification to his sentence based upon the anticipated changes to the Tax Table Guideline § 2T4.1.

The parties agree that they will not seek or argue in support of any other specific offense characteristics, Chapter Three adjustments (other than the decrease for "Acceptance of Responsibility"), or cross-references, except that the government may move for a departure or an adjustment based on the defendant's cooperation (§5K1.1) or post-plea obstruction of justice (§3C1.1). Both parties agree not to move for, or argue in support of, any departure from the Sentencing Guidelines, or any deviance or variance from the Sentencing Guidelines under <u>United States v. Booker</u>, 543 U.S. 220, 125 S.Ct. 738 (2005) other than what is specified above.

The defendant also agrees that the application of the United States Sentencing Guidelines to his case results in a reasonable sentence and that the defendant will not request that the Court apply the

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sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553 to arrive at a different sentence than that called for under the Sentencing Guidelines' advisory guideline range as determined by the Court, other than arguing for the effective two-level reduction to account for the anticipated change to the Tax Table in Guideline § 2T4.1, as already specified above. The defendant acknowledges that if the defendant requests or suggests in any manner a different sentence than what is called for under the advisory guideline range as determined by the Court, the plea agreement is voidable at the option of the government. The government, in its sole discretion, may withdraw from the plea agreement and continue with its prosecution of the defendant as if the parties had never entered into this plea agreement.

VII. **WAIVERS**

A. Waiver of Constitutional Rights.

The defendant understands that by pleading guilty he is waiving the following constitutional rights: (a) to plead not guilty and to persist in that plea if already made; (b) to be tried by a jury; (c) to be assisted at trial by an attorney, who would be appointed if necessary; (d) to subpoena witnesses to testify on his behalf; (e) to confront and cross-examine witnesses against him; and (f) not to be compelled to incriminate himself.

В. Waiver of Appeal and Collateral Attack.

The defendant understands that the law gives the defendant a right to appeal his guilty plea, conviction, and sentence. The defendant agrees as part of his plea(s), however, to give up the right to appeal the guilty plea, conviction, and the sentence imposed in this case as long as the sentence does not exceed the statutory maximum for the offense to which he is pleading guilty. The defendant specifically gives up the right to appeal any order of restitution the Court may impose.

Notwithstanding the defendant's waiver of appeal, the defendant will retain the right to appeal if one of the following circumstances occurs: (1) the sentence imposed by the District Court exceeds the statutory maximum; and/or (2) the government appeals the sentence in the case. The defendant understands that these circumstances occur infrequently and that in almost all cases this Agreement constitutes a complete waiver of all appellate rights.

In addition, regardless of the sentence the defendant receives, the defendant also gives up any right to bring a collateral attack, including a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or § 2241, challenging any

aspect of the guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, except for non-waivable claims.

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Notwithstanding the agreement in paragraph III.A above that the government will move to dismiss counts against the defendant, if the defendant ever attempts to vacate his plea(s), dismiss the underlying charges, or modify or set aside his sentence on any of the counts to which he is pleading guilty, the government shall have the rights set forth in Section II.E herein.

C. Waiver of Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

The defendant agrees to waive all rights under the "Hyde Amendment," Section 617, P.L. 105-119 (Nov. 26, 1997), to recover attorneys' fees or other litigation expenses in connection with the investigation and prosecution of all charges in the above-captioned matter and of any related allegations (including without limitation any charges to be dismissed pursuant to this plea agreement and any charges previously dismissed).

Impact of Plea on Defendant's Immigration Status. D.

Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including offense(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is his automatic removal from the United States.

VIII. ENTIRE PLEA AGREEMENT

Other than this plea agreement, no agreement, understanding, promise, or condition between the government and the defendant exists, nor will such agreement, understanding, promise, or condition exist unless it is committed to writing and signed by the defendant, counsel for the defendant, and counsel for the United States.

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IX. <u>APPROVALS AND SIGNATURES</u>

A. <u>Defense Counsel.</u>

I have read this plea agreement and have discussed it fully with my client. The plea agreement accurately and completely sets forth the entirety of the agreement. I concur in my client's decision to plead guilty as set forth in this plea agreement.

Dated:

PATRICK HANLY Attorney for Defendant

B. <u>Defendant:</u>

I have read this plea agreement and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand it, and I voluntarily agree to it. Further, I have consulted with my attorney and fully understand my rights with respect to the provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines that may apply to my case. No other promises or inducements have been made to me, other than those contained in this plea agreement. In addition, no one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this plea agreement. Finally, I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this case.

Dated:

WILLIAM G. GREEN Defendant

C. Attorney for United States:

I accept and agree to this plea agreement on behalf of the government.

Dated:

BENJAMIN B. WAGNER
United States Attorney

CHRISTOPHER S. HALES Assistant United States Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

Factual Basis for Plea

If this matter proceeded to trial, the United States would establish the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

At all times relevant to the indictment, William Green (GREEN) worked at a tax return preparation business in Sacramento named "Will the Tax Man." Preparing taxes was his primary occupation from 2007 until at least April 2011 when a search warrant was executed at his office. During that period GREEN met with clients, received their tax information, prepared their federal tax returns, and then usually filed the clients' federal tax returns for them, primarily electronically. GREEN knowingly placed false information on the federal tax returns of clients to increase their tax refunds and/or eliminate their taxes due and owing. Often the false information consisted of false charitable contributions in large round numbers that were identical for multiple taxpayers (for example \$6,000 in noncash charitable contributions to the same two charities), as well as false employee business expense deductions and false education-related deductions and credits. The numbers GREEN entered were not provided to him by his clients and were not based upon documentation provided to him by his clients. GREEN knowingly and willfully added false information to his clients' federal tax returns with the express purpose of decreasing their taxes owed and/or increasing their refund amounts. GREEN

typically did not go over the pertinent sections of the tax returns with his clients once the tax returns

were complete. The total tax loss resulting from GREEN's conduct was approximately \$492,000.

With respect to Count Two, GREEN prepared the 2009 federal tax return Schedule 1040 for his client R.B. On this federal tax return, GREEN entered a total of approximately \$32,168 in false deductions. These false deductions consisted of \$3,000 in noncash charitable contributions to United Cerebral Palsy, \$3,000 in noncash charitable contributions to Amvets, \$2,480 of gifts to charity by cash or check, and \$23,688 in unreimbursed employee expenses for purported business use of home. All of these deductions were false, and R.B. did not give these figures to GREEN, nor did R.B. give GREEN any documentation purporting to reflect these amounts. In addition to not having made the noncash and cash charitable contributions, R.B. did not provide information to GREEN suggesting that he could qualify for the business use of home deduction. R.B.'s tax return was filed with the United States Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service ("IRS").

The false information entered into R.B.'s 2009 federal tax return was material to the IRS because it had a natural tendency to influence, and was capable of influencing, the IRS's calculation of R.B.'s 2009 tax burden. Such information was necessary to the IRS's determination of whether and how much income tax R.B. owed. As a tax preparer, GREEN knew he had a duty to enter and submit truthful information to the IRS on the tax returns of his clients, including R.B., and GREEN knowingly and intentionally violated that legal duty by entering false information on R.B.'s 2009 federal tax return.

Dated:

WILLIAM G. GREEN Defendant