United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut
Press Release

February 14, 2008

IRS EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGE OF UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO A GOVERNMENT COMPUTER

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that CHRISTOPHER SUPPLE, 40, of Bridgeport, pleaded guilty yesterday, February 13, before United States Magistrate Judge Donna F. Martinez in Hartford to one count of unauthorized access to a government computer.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, on November 21, 2002, SUPPLE, an Internal Revenue Service Revenue Officer, used a computer to access taxpayer information regarding an acquaintance. In pleading guilty, SUPPLE acknowledged that he had accessed the computer information deliberately and without proper authorization. SUPPLE's unauthorized access was detected through an internal investigation by the Treasury Department in 2005.

Federal law makes it a criminal offense for Internal Revenue Service employees to access taxpayer information without a legitimate business purpose.

"The Government prosecutes cases like this in order to deter public servants from abusing their authority by inappropriately accessing databases that contain sensitive information, and to ensure appropriate consequences for those who step over the line," U.S. Attorney O'Connor stated.

SUPPLE is scheduled to be sentenced by Chief United States District Judge Robert N. Chatigny on May 2, 2008, at which time SUPPLE faces a maximum term of imprisonment of one year and a fine of up to $100,000.

This investigation was conducted by the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James Smart.

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