

Two plead guilty, admitting they bribed an Oregon official in kickback scheme

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

(Eugene, Oregon) — Two Los Angeles business pleaded guilty in federal court today to bribery and filing false income tax returns, admitting they paid over \$500,000 in kickbacks to an Oregon Department of Corrections employee in return for ensuring future food sales.

Michael Levin, 52, and William Lawrence, 48, of Valencia, California, entered their pleas in Eugene, Oregon before United States District Court Judge Ann Aiken.

The United States Attorney for the District of Oregon, Karin J. Immergut, said the defendants are the owners of Levin & Lawrence, Inc., a wholesale food distributor located in Santa Clarita, California.

The defendants admitted they paid a total of \$532,000 in kickbacks to an Oregon Department of Corrections employee from August 2004 through December 2006, in return for ensuring future food sales.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 27, 2007. Each defendant faces up to thirteen years in federal prison and a \$500,000 fine.

This case is being investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance of the Oregon Department of Corrections. The investigation is ongoing.

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