

Oregon man pleads guilty to faking IRS docs

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Fifth Oregon Man to be Convicted of this Crime in 2007; Attempted to Retaliate Against an IRS Official

MEDFORD, Ore. — Michael Peter Stemas, 58, of Trail, Oregon, pleaded guilty on June 7, 2007 to one count of filing a false tax document under penalty of perjury. Stemas's sentencing is set for October 11, 2007 before United States District Court Judge Ann L. Aiken. Stemas faces up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Judge Aiken ordered Stemas to remain on electronic monitoring pending sentencing.

In October 2000, Stemas, in an attempt to harass and retaliate against "an adversary" falsely reported that he transferred \$143,471 in currency to Patrick Bazick, Chief of the Collection Branch, Internal Revenue Service. Stemas filed a fraudulent IRS Form 8300 "used to report cash payments over \$10,000 received in a trade or business" on Bazick's behalf.

At the guilty plea hearing, Stemas admitted that he obstructed justice by remaining a fugitive for almost a year and a half prior to his arrest on April 7, 2007, and by providing a false name to the arresting officers. This case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

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