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Judge John J. Coughenour

10-CR-00369-EXH



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

ARTHUR JOEL EISENBERG,

Defendant.

NO. CR10-369JCC

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States of America, by and through Jenny A. Durkan, United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, Nicholas W. Brown, Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, and Stephanie M. Carowan, Trial Attorney for the United States Department of Justice Tax Division, and Defendant, Arthur Joel Eisenberg, and his attorney, John Colvin, enter into the following Agreement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B):

- 1. <u>Waiver of Indictment</u>. Defendant, having been advised of the right to be charged by Indictment, agrees to waive that right and enter a plea of guilty to the charge brought by the United States Attorney in an Information.
- 2. <u>The Charge</u>. Defendant, having been advised of the right to have this matter tried before a jury, agrees to waive that right and enter a plea of guilty to the following charge contained in the Information: Willfully Filing a False Tax Return for the 2004 tax

 year, as charged in Count 1, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

By entering this plea of guilty, Defendant hereby waives all objections to the form of the charging document. Defendant further understands that before entering his plea of guilty, Defendant will be placed under oath. Any statement given by Defendant under oath may be used by the United States in a prosecution for perjury or false statement.

- 3. <u>Elements of the Offense</u>. The elements of the offense of Willfully Filing a False Tax Return, as charged in Count One, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1), are as follows:
- a. First, the defendant made and signed a tax return for the year 2004 that he knew contained false information as to a material matter;
- b. Second, the return contained a written declaration that it was being signed subject to the penalties of perjury; and,
 - c. Third, in filing the false tax return, the defendant acted willfully.
- 4. The Penalties. Defendant understands that the statutory penalties for the offense of Willfully Filing a False Tax Return, as charged in Count One are as follows: Imprisonment for up to three (3) years, a fine of up to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00), a period of supervision following release from prison of up to one (1) year, and a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) special assessment. If Defendant receives a sentence of probation, the probationary period could be up to five (5) years. Defendant agrees that the special assessment shall be paid at or before the time of sentencing.

Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which he will be subject to certain restrictions and requirements. Defendant further understands that if supervised release is imposed and he violates one or more of its conditions, he could be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release that was originally imposed. This could result in Defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

Defendant agrees that any monetary penalty the Court imposes, including the special assessment, fine, costs or restitution, is due and payable immediately, and further agrees to submit a completed Financial Statement of Debtor form as requested by the

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- United States Attorney's Office.
- 5. <u>Rights Waived by Pleading Guilty</u>. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights:
 - a. The right to plead not guilty and to persist in a plea of not guilty;
 - b. The right to a speedy and public trial before a jury of his peers;
- c. The right to the effective assistance of counsel at trial, including, if

 Defendant could not afford an attorney, the right to have the Court appoint one for

 Defendant;
- d. The right to be presumed innocent until guilt has been established beyond a reasonable doubt at trial;
- e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against Defendant at trial;
- f. The right to compel or subpoena witnesses to appear on his behalf at trial;
- g. The right to testify or to remain silent at trial, at which trial such silence could not be used against Defendant; and
 - h. The right to appeal a finding of guilt or any pretrial rulings.
- 6. <u>United States Sentencing Guidelines</u>. Defendant understands and acknowledges that, at sentencing, the Court must consider the sentencing range calculated under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, together with the other factors set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a), including: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense; (2) the history and characteristics of the defendant; (3) the need for the sentence to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment for the offense; (4) the need for the sentence to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct; (5) the need for the sentence to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; (6) the need to provide the defendant with educational and vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (7) the kinds of sentences available; (8) the need to provide restitution to victims;

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and (9) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparity among defendants involved in similar conduct who have similar records. Accordingly, Defendant understands and acknowledges that:

- a. The Court will determine his applicable Sentencing Guidelines range at the time of sentencing;
- b. After consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a), the Court may impose any sentence authorized by law, up to the maximum term authorized by law;
- c. The Court is not bound by any recommendation regarding the sentence to be imposed, or by any calculation or estimation of the Sentencing Guidelines range offered by the parties or the United States Probation Department, or by any stipulations or agreements between the parties in this Plea Agreement; and
- d. Defendant may not withdraw a guilty plea solely because of the sentence imposed by the Court.
- 7. <u>Ultimate Sentence</u>. Defendant acknowledges that no one has promised or guaranteed what sentence the Court will impose.
 - 8. <u>Statement of Facts</u>. The parties agree on the following facts.
 - a. Obligation to Report Worldwide Income and Foreign Bank Accounts
- i. United States citizens who have income in excess of a certain amount are obligated to file a federal income tax return. On said return, United States citizens are obligated to report their worldwide income. Additionally, United States citizens who have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country with assets in excess of \$10,000 are required to disclose the existence of such account and the country in which it is located on Schedule B, Part III of their individual income tax return.
 - b. <u>UBS and Other Foreign Bank Accounts</u>
- i. In or about 1983, Defendant opened a bank account at UBS
 Cayman for the purpose of investing monies.

- ii. In approximately 2002, UBS Cayman ceased offering services to US persons. On March 7, 2002, Defendant opened a bank account in his own name at UBS AG in Zurich, Switzerland. Defendant opened the account at UBS AG in Zurich using the funds that were previously maintained in his UBS Caymans account. Throughout 2003 and 2004, Defendant authorized UBS to buy and sell securities on his behalf. These sales ultimately generated capital gains income and losses for Defendant in each year. The funds maintained in the account also generated ordinary interest and dividend income for Defendant.
- iii. In or about 1988, Defendant also opened a bank account at UBS AG in Lucerne, Switzerland, for the purpose of investing monies. This account remained open, in Defendant's name, until, on or about April 24, 2004, Defendant instructed UBS to transfer all of the funds held in this account to the aforementioned account maintained by Defendant at UBS AG in Zurich, Switzerland.
- iv. In about 2000, pursuant to a Qualified Intermediary Agreement with the Internal Revenue Service, UBS was required to withhold taxes from, and report to the IRS, all UBS accounts owned by United States citizens that held United States-based securities. In or about May 2004, Defendant authorized and caused to be formed a Hong Kong corporation named East West Universal Limited. Swiss lawyers A. M. R. and Matthias Walter Rickenbach were named as East West Universal Limited's first directors.
- v. On or about May 6, 2004, Defendant authorized UBS to transfer all assets from his individual UBS account to a newly opened UBS account in the name of East West Universal Limited. Defendant's individual UBS account was subsequently closed. Defendant was the beneficial owner of the assets held in the account opened in the name of East West Universal Limited.
- vi. After transferring his assets to the East West Universal
 Limited UBS account, Defendant continued to retain the ability to access the assets
 maintained in the East West Universal Limited UBS account through the directors of East
 West Universal Limited. For example, in or about July 2004, while traveling in Monaco,

1	Defendant withdrew approximately \$9,000.00 from the East West Universal Limited UBS
2	account.
3	vii. From 2004 through 2008, UBS bankers traveled to Seattle
4	annually where they met with Defendant to discuss the overall performance of the assets in
5	the East West Universal Limited UBS account.
6	viii. From 2004 through the end of 2008, Defendant authorized and
7	directed UBS to buy and sell numerous securities on Defendant's behalf, utilizing the
8	funds maintained in Defendant's East West Universal Limited UBS account. These sales
9	ultimately generated capital gains income and losses for Defendant in each year. The
10	funds maintained in the account also generated ordinary interest and dividend income for
11	Defendant.
12	ix. On or about December 18, 2008, Defendant instructed UBS to
13	transfer the funds maintained in the East West Universal Limited UBS account to a new
14	account established by Defendant, in Defendant's name, at Wegelin & Company
15	Privatbankiers, a separate bank also located in Zurich, Switzerland.
16	x. From 2003 through 2008, the balance of funds maintained in
17	Defendant's various foreign bank accounts, including those accounts at both UBS and,
18	later, at Wegelin & Company, exceeded two million dollars. Specifically, the total
19	combined balances of the accounts as of the end of each calendar year were as follows:
20	2003: \$2,174,651.36 \$ 2,885,696.48 SHE
21	2004: \$3,148,315.00
22	2005: \$3,336,735.00
23	2006: \$3,965,924.00
24	2007: \$4,262,786.00
25	2008: \$2,377,226.00.
26	xi. Defendant continued to maintain his account at Wegelin &
27	Company until 2010, when Defendant ultimately transferred the funds to an account in
28	Defendant's name at UBS Financial Services in Seattle, Washington.

c. <u>Tax Return Information</u>

i. For tax years 2003 through 2008, Defendant, a United States citizen, was required to file a United States tax return, to report his worldwide income, and to declare the existence of any foreign based financial account in which he had an interest or over which he had signature or other authority that contained assets in excess of \$10,000.

- ii. Defendant had prepared and caused to be filed an individual income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service for tax years 2003 through 2006. Each year from 2003-2006, Defendant failed to provide information about his UBS bank accounts to his return preparer. Defendant likewise failed to report on his tax returns any income earned on his UBS bank accounts. Each year, Defendant also willfully failed to disclose that he had an interest in or was the beneficial owner of either the account held in his name or, beginning in 2004, the East West Universal Limited account at UBS in Switzerland. This willful failure to disclose the existence of Defendant's individual and the East West Universal accounts as well as his failure to disclose the income generated by said accounts made Defendant's individual income tax returns false as to a material matter for each of the relevant tax years.
- iii. When Defendant filed or caused to be filed his U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, IRS Forms 1040, for tax years 2003 through 2006, he knew that he was obligated to report any income earned on his UBS bank accounts on line 21 of said tax return and that he should have disclosed the existence of the UBS account on Schedule B, Part III.
- iv. Specifically, on or about December 2, 2005, Defendant had prepared and caused to be filed a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, IRS Form 1040, for tax year 2004. The return was signed by Defendant under an unaltered declaration stating that, under penalties of perjury, all of the information contained in the return and accompanying schedules were examined by Defendant and that, to the best of Defendant's knowledge and belief, the return and accompanying schedules and statements were true,

correct, and complete.

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- On Schedule B, Part III of Defendant's 2004 individual income tax return, Defendant failed to report that he had an interest in or was the beneficial owner of a financial account at UBS in Switzerland. Defendant also failed to report income earned on his UBS Swiss bank account anywhere on the tax return.
- 9. Sentencing Factors. The United States and Defendant agree that, although not binding upon the probation office or the Court, they will jointly recommend that the Court make the following findings and conclusions as to the sentence to be imposed:
- Tax Loss: The relevant amount of actual, probable, or intended tax a. loss under Section 2T1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines resulting from the offense committed in this case, including all relevant conduct, is between \$30,000 and \$200,000. This amount is the tax loss associated with the accounts at UBS that were disclosed to the Government pursuant to the Deferred Prosecution Agreement with UBS, and of which Defendant was the beneficial owner for the tax years 2003 through 2008.
- Sophisticated Means: A two-point increase to the base offense level b. for use of sophisticated means, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2T1.1(b)(2);

The parties will submit sentencing memoranda to the Court with specific recommendations as to tax loss. The United States and Defendant agree that they will not present argument at the sentencing hearing that the tax loss associated with Defendant's conduct is outside the range stipulated in Paragraph 9(a) of this agreement.

The United States reserves the right to inform the Court and the probation office of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the offenses committed, whether charged or not, as well as all relevant information concerning Defendant and Defendant's background. Subject only to the express terms of any agreed-upon sentencing recommendations contained in this agreement, the United States further reserves the right to make any recommendation as to the quality and quantity of punishment.

The parties agree they are free to argue the application of any other provisions of

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the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands, however, that at the time of sentencing, the Court is free to reject these stipulated adjustments, and is further free to apply additional downward or upward adjustments in determining his Sentencing Guidelines range.

10. Cooperation.

- Defendant shall cooperate completely and truthfully with law a. enforcement authorities in the investigation and prosecution of other individuals involved in criminal activity. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, complete and truthful statements to law enforcement officers, as well as complete and truthful testimony, if called as a witness before a grand jury, or at any state or federal trial, retral, or other judicial proceedings. Defendant acknowledges that this obligation to cooperate shall continue after Defendant has entered a guilty plea and sentence has been imposed, no matter what sentence Defendant receives. Defendant's failure to do so may constitute a breach of this Plea Agreement.
- b. Defendant understands that the United States will tolerate no deception from him. If, in the estimation of the United States Attorney or the United States Department of Justice Tax Division, information or testimony provided from the date of the Plea Agreement proves to be untruthful or incomplete in any way, regardless of whether the untruthfulness helps or hurts the United States' case, the United States may consider that Defendant has breached this Plea Agreement.
- c. The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington and the United States Department of Justice Tax Division, in turn, agree not to prosecute Defendant for any other offenses, other than crimes of violence, that Defendant may have committed in the Western District of Washington prior to the date of this Plea Agreement about which: (1) the United States presently possesses information; or (2) about which Defendant provides information pursuant to this Plea Agreement to cooperate with the authorities.
 - The parties agree that information provided by Defendant in d.

- e. In exchange for Defendant's cooperation, as described above, and conditioned upon Defendant's fulfillment of all conditions of this Plea Agreement, the United States Attorney and the United States Department of Justice Tax Division agree to consider filing a motion, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K 1.1 and 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e), recommending that the Court sentence Defendant to a sentence that reflects Defendant's cooperation. Defendant understands that in the event the United States files such a sentencing recommendation, that recommendation will be based on consideration of factors and provisions set forth in the United States Sentencing Guidelines.
- f. Defendant agrees that his sentencing date may be delayed based on the United States' need for his continued cooperation, and agrees not to object to any continuances of his sentencing date sought by the United States.
- 11. Non-Prosecution of Additional Offenses. As part of this Plea Agreement, the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington and the United States Department of Justice Tax Division agree not to prosecute Defendant for any additional offenses known to it as of the time of this Agreement that are based upon evidence in its possession at this time, and that arise out of the conduct giving rise to this investigation. In this regard, Defendant recognizes that the United States has agreed not to prosecute all of the criminal charges the evidence establishes were committed by Defendant solely because of the promises made by Defendant in this Agreement.
- 12. Acceptance of Responsibility. The United States agrees that it will recommend at sentencing that the court reduce by two levels the Sentencing Guidelines level applicable to Defendant's offense, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), based upon Defendant's recognition and affirmative and timely acceptance of personal responsibility. If at the time of sentencing Defendant's offense level is determined to be 16 or greater, the United States will make a motion requesting an additional one level decrease, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), stating that Defendant has assisted authorities in the investigation or

prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the United States and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently.

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- <u>Restitution</u>. Defendant agrees to pay restitution to the Internal Revenue Service in the amount of the tax loss, with the specific amount to be determined at or before the time of sentencing with credit for any amounts already paid. Defendant agrees to pay restitution by making an immediate payment in full on or before the date set for sentencing. Defendant agrees that the total amount of restitution ordered by the Court results from his fraudulent conduct and that he is liable for the fraud penalty under 26 U.S.C. § 6663 as described below. Defendant agrees to sign any IRS forms deemed necessary by the IRS to enable it to make an immediate assessment of that portion of the tax Defendant is ordered to pay as restitution. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the IRS in its lawful examination, determination, assessment, or collection of any taxes, penalties or interest due from Defendant for the time period covered by this Agreement or any other time period. Defendant agrees that this agreement, or any judgment, order, release, or satisfaction issued in connection with this agreement, will not satisfy, settle, or compromise Defendant's obligation to pay the balance of any remaining civil liabilities, including tax, additional tax, additions to tax, interest, and penalties, owed to the IRS for the time periods covered by this agreement or any other time period.
 - 14. Cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS").
- a. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in its civil examination, determination, assessment, and collection of income taxes related to his income tax returns and any related corporate/entity tax returns, and further agrees not to conceal, or transfer for no consideration any funds or property that could be used to satisfy such taxes, penalties, and interest. Defendant agrees to provide the IRS any documentation in Defendant's possession and/or control requested by the IRS in connection with its civil examination, determination, assessment, and collection of such income taxes prior to sentencing.

- b. Defendant also agrees to work diligently with the Internal Revenue Service to resolve the liability for all taxes, interest, and penalties due and owing to the IRS, including all taxes, interest, and penalties on his individual and any related corporate/entity liabilities. In resolving any outstanding liabilities, Defendant agrees to promptly file any and all outstanding and/or delinquent tax returns, that remain unfiled and to pay any taxes, interest, and penalties due and owing as a result of said returns. Nothing in this agreement shall limit the IRS in its civil determination, assessment, and collection of any taxes, additions to tax pursuant to Subchapter 68B of the Internal Revenue Code, or interest that the defendant may owe.
- c. Defendant further agrees to repatriate any funds or assets held in any foreign country or outside the United States.
- d. Defendant admits that he is liable for the civil fraud penalty imposed by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 6663 on the understatements of tax, if any, for all of the tax years at issue. Defendant agrees that a civil penalty under 26 U.S.C. § 6663 may be assessed against him.
- e. Defendant also agrees that in order to resolve his civil liability for failing to file Reports of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts, Forms TD F 90-22.1, for tax years 2003 through 2008, he will pay a fifty percent penalty for the one year with the highest balance in the account as of the end of the calendar year for years 2003 through 2008.
- f. Finally, Defendant agrees that any evidence, including statements and documents, provided to the United States by Defendant pursuant to a Proffer Agreement, without any limitations, can be utilized by the United States in its civil examination, determination, assessment and collection of income taxes related to his income tax returns or in any other civil proceeding. The United States does not deem this, in any way, to be a waiver of Defendant's attorney-client privilege with respect to any attorney.
- 15. <u>Breach, Waiver, and Post-Plea Conduct</u>. Defendant agrees that if he breaches this Plea Agreement, the United States may withdraw from this Plea Agreement

and Defendant may be prosecuted for all offenses for which the United States has evidence. Defendant agrees not to oppose any steps taken by the United States to nullify this Plea Agreement, including the filing of a motion to withdraw from the Plea Agreement. Defendant also agrees that if he is in breach of this Plea Agreement, Defendant has waived any objection to the reinstitution of any charges that were previously dismissed or any additional charges that had not been prosecuted.

Defendant further understands that if, after the date of this Agreement, he should engage in illegal conduct, or conduct that is in violation of his conditions of his release (examples of which include, but are not limited to: obstruction of justice, failure to appear for a court proceeding, criminal conduct while pending sentencing, and false statements to law enforcement agents, the Pretrial Services Officer, Probation Officer or the Court), or is found to have misrepresented the facts to the United States prior to entering this plea agreement, the United States is free under this Agreement to file additional charges against Defendant or to seek a sentence that takes such conduct into consideration. Such a sentence could include a sentencing enhancement under the United States Sentencing Guidelines or an upward departure from the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range.

- 16. <u>Waiver of Appeal</u>. As part of this Plea Agreement and on the condition that the Court imposes a custodial sentence that is within or below the Sentencing Guidelines range that is determined by the Court at the time of sentencing, Defendant waives to the full extent of the law:
 - Any right conferred by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 to appeal the sentence, including any restitution order imposed; and
 - b. Any right to bring a collateral attack against the conviction and sentence, including any restitution order imposed, except as it may relate to the effectiveness of legal representation.

Furthermore, this waiver does not preclude Defendant from bringing an appropriate motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, to address the conditions of his confinement or the decisions of the Bureau of Prisons regarding the execution of his sentence.

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If Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement at any time by appealing or collaterally attacking (except as to effectiveness of legal representation) his conviction or sentence in any way, the United States may prosecute Defendant for any counts, including those with mandatory minimum sentences, that were dismissed or not charged pursuant to this Plea Agreement.

- 17. Voluntariness of Plea. Defendant agrees that he has entered into this Plea Agreement freely and voluntarily, and that no threats or promises, other than the promises contained in this Plea Agreement, were made to induce Defendant to enter this plea of guilty.
- Statute of Limitations. In the event this Agreement is not accepted by the 18. Court for any reason, or Defendant has breached any of the terms of this Plea Agreement, the statute of limitations shall be deemed to have been tolled from the date of the Plea Agreement to: (1) 30 days following the date of non-acceptance of the Plea Agreement by the Court; or (2) 30 days following the date on which a breach of the Plea Agreement by Defendant is discovered by the United States Attorney's Office.

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19. Completeness of Agreement. The United States and Defendant acknowledge that these terms constitute the entire Plea Agreement between the parties. This Agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington and the United States Department of Justice Tax Division. It does not bind any other United States Attorney's Office or any other office or agency of the United States, or any state or local prosecutor.

Dated this day of December, 2010.

Attorney for Defendan

torney for Defendant

Assistant United States Attorney Western District of Washington

W. BROWN Assistant United States Attorney Western District of Washington

Trial Attorney

United States Department of Justice

Tax Division