



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Melinda Haag
Northern District of California**

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FORMER PLEASANTON WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION

Failed to Report \$3.8 Million

OAKLAND, Calif. – Ranni K. Hillyer Oceana, also known as Ranni K. Hillyer, pleaded guilty today to three counts of tax evasion, United States Attorney Melinda Haag and Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Scott O’Briant announced.

According to the plea agreement, in 2002, Hillyer Oceana was the sole proprietor for Beyond CFO, a financial firm located in the San Francisco Bay Area. During that time, Beyond CFO had a consulting agreement with the chairman and chief executive officer of Ramsell Corporation, a public health service provider company in Oakland. On or about April 9, 2003, Hillyer Oceana was hired by Ramsell Corporation as the chief financial officer and was appointed as the chief operating officer. During 2002, 2003 and 2004, Hillyer Oceana was asked and agreed to be a financial investment advisor for the chairman/CEO and was given authority to handle his personal and business banking needs as well as having signatory authority over his bank accounts. During this period, while employed by Ramsell Corporation, Hillyer Oceana took funds from the chairman/CEO’s personal and business bank accounts totaling at least \$3,880,862. She used these funds to pay vendors who worked on her personal residence, to pay off her line of credit at Bank of America, to pay for expenses relating to her businesses, to purchase real estate for herself and a family member, and to loan money to third parties. In doing so, Hillyer Oceana evaded the assessment of income taxes on the \$3,880,862 she took by failing to report those funds on her federal income tax returns for 2002, 2003 and 2004. There is additional tax due in the approximate amount of \$1,387,294.

Hillyer Oceana, 57, a former a resident of Pleasanton, Calif., currently resides in San Diego, where she is employed by Aero Financial. She was indicted on Oct. 8, 2009, and scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 12 at 2:30 p.m.

The maximum statutory penalty for each count of tax evasion in violation of Title 26 U.S.C. § 7201 is five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000, plus restitution if appropriate. However, any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence, 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

Cynthia Stier is the Assistant U.S. Attorney who is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Kathy Tat. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

Further Information:

Case #: 09-00982-PJH

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at www.usdoj.gov/usao/can.

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at www.cand.uscourts.gov.

All press inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office should be directed to Jack Gillund at (415) 436-6599 or by e-mail at Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov.