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Crimes Against Revenue Program Secures over \$55,000 in Taxpayer Restitution during February 2014



Charles Stevens Jr.



Joseph Sholar



John Smith II

ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that the Financial Crimes Unit has secured \$55,805.75 in New York State taxpayer restitution stemming from the felony convictions of multiple defendants in unrelated incidents of unemployment insurance fraud during February 2014.

On February 14, 2014, **CHARLES STEVENS JR**, 48, of Troy, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Andrew G. Ceresia in Supreme Court.

Between January 19, 2009 and September 16, 2012, the defendant submitted claims to the New York State Department of Labor for unemployment insurance. The defendant, however, was employed during this time frame and was receiving a regular paycheck. The defendant failed to report this employment on his weekly certification to the Department of Labor. As a result the defendant stole \$36,608.75 in unemployment insurance funds.

CHARLES STEVENS, JR faces 1 ½ to 3 years in State Prison when sentenced on May 30, 2014. The defendant must also pay court ordered restitution in the full amount of \$36,608.75.

Additionally, on February 4, 2014, **JOSEPH SHOLAR**, 57, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

Between July 5, 2010 and December 4, 2011, the defendant submitted multiple claims to the New York State Department of Labor for unemployment insurance. The defendant, however, was employed and working for multiple employers during this time frame and received a regular paycheck. The defendant failed to report this employment on his weekly certification to the Department of Labor as required by law. As a result of his actions the defendant stole \$13,563.50 in unemployment insurance funds.

SHOLAR faces up to 6 months in the Albany County Correctional Facility, to run concurrent to a term of 5 years of Felony Probation when sentenced on April 1, 2014. The defendant must also pay court ordered restitution in the full amount of \$13,563.50.

Finally, on February 20, 2014, **JOHN SMITH II**, 59, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court.

Between December 29, 2008 and November 6, 2011, the defendant submitted claims to the New York State Department of Labor for unemployment insurance. The defendant, however, was employed during this time frame and receiving a regular paycheck. The defendant failed to report this employment on his weekly certification to the Department of Labor and as a result defendant stole \$5,633.50 in unemployment insurance funds.

SMITH II faces 5 years of Felony Probation when sentenced on April 17, 2014. The defendant must also pay court ordered restitution in the full amount of \$5,633.50.

Since the inception of the Crimes Against Revenue Program, Assistant District Attorneys from the Financial Crimes have recovered \$1,714,504 from defendants who stole from the taxpayers and returned those funds to the revenue accounts of Albany County and New York State. For more information on the Albany County Crimes Against Revenue Program click [here](#).

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Peluso of the Financial Crimes Unit is handling the prosecution of these cases.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

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