



The United States Attorney's Office

## Southern District of Texas

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### News Release

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April 16, 2007

#### **ANTHONY QUINN WELCH CONVICTED IN \$2 MILLION BOGUS TAX REFUND SCHEME**

[HOUSTON] – Anthony Quinn Welch, 47, of Sugar Land, TX has been convicted of preparing and filing false tax returns for two former professional football players to obtain millions in bogus tax refunds for himself, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Welch pleaded guilty to two federal felony offenses at a hearing today before United States District Judge Lynn N. Hughes. Welch acknowledged that, between 1997 and 2002, he prepared and filed tax returns for two former professional football players in which he added fictitious deductions, business expenses and losses so that he could obtain and consume fraudulent income tax refunds

totaling \$717,527 in one player's name and \$1,405,845 in the other's name. Welch admitted using bogus mailing addresses and secret bank accounts in the names of the football players to carry out the scheme. The football players were unaware that Welch had obtained the fraudulent refunds in their names.

Welch, whose bond was recently revoked, will remain in federal custody pending a sentencing hearing set for July 16, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. He faces a statutory maximum of three years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine as punishment for each count of conviction.

The investigation leading to the charges against Welch was conducted by the Houston Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Jimmy Sledge.

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