

Osteopaths Sentenced In Tax Case

Two osteopaths who operate a women's clinic in Bridgeton were sentenced today to jail, fined, placed on probation and told to do community service work for evading federal income taxes on fees received from patients.

U.S. District Judge Edward L. Filippine ordered six-month jail terms for Dr. Martin J. Roitman, 41, and Dr. Allen S. Palmer, 39, both of Creve Coeur.

In addition, the judge ordered Roitman to pay a \$10,000 fine, spend four years on probation and perform 350 hours of unpaid community work. Filippine ordered a \$5,000 fine, two years of probation and 250 hours of community service for Palmer, who also was ordered to pay the costs of his prosecution.

Before they were sentenced, both doctors expressed regret for their actions. A crowd of about 60 persons — many of them patients of the two men — listened silently as Filippine ordered the sentences.

Last month, Roitman pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy; Palmer pleaded guilty to a charge of aiding in the preparation of a false income tax return. In exchange for the pleas, prosecutors agreed not to bring additional charges against them.

The two men operate the Roitman & Palmer Women's Clinical Group Inc., 3394 McKelvey Road in Bridgeton, which offers abortions, among other medical services.

Roitman told Filippine last month that he had received about \$75,000 from a "confidential cash fund" between 1974 and 1979 after he instructed clinic employees to maintain two sets of financial records.

Roitman told the judge that he had told clinic employees not to enter certain cash payments on the clinic records that later were used to prepare the firm's corporate income tax returns. He said the clinic had filed false tax returns for the years 1974 through 1978.

Palmer told Filippine that he had helped prepare the clinic's 1978 tax returns, which listed income of about \$30,000. But Palmer told the judge he knew the clinic had additional, unreported income.

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Fri, Aug 11, 2017