

Two Doctors Plead Guilty Of Scheme To Evade Taxes

Two osteopaths who operate a women's clinic in Bridgeton have admitted that they engaged in a scheme to evade federal income taxes on some of the fees they collected from patients.

The admissions were made Tuesday in U.S. District Court by Dr. Martin J. Roitman, 41, and Dr. Allen S. Palmer, 39, both of Creve Coeur. Roitman pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy; Palmer pleaded guilty to a charge of aiding in the preparation of a false income tax form.

Judge Edward L. Filippine said he would sentence the men on Oct. 26. Roitman faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Palmer faces a maximum of three years and a \$5,000 fine.

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

The two were indicted last Thursday by a federal grand jury after a lengthy investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

In response to questions from Filippine, Roitman said he received about \$75,000 from a "confidential cash fund" between 1974 and 1979 after he told clinic employees to maintain two sets of financial records.

Roitman told the judge that he had instructed clinic employees not to enter certain cash payments on the clinic records that were later 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.

When asked by Filippine whether he participated in a conspiracy to evade taxes, Roitman replied, "Yes, sir."

Palmer told Filippine that he had helped prepare the clinic's 1978 tax returns, which listed its income as about \$530,000. But Palmer told the judge that he knew the clinic had additional, unreported income.

David V. Capes, an assistant U.S. attorney, told Filippine that both men had agreed to plead guilty in exchange for the government's promise not to file additional criminal charges against them.

Capes said Roitman and Palmer, whom he identified as one of Roitman's co-conspirators but who was not charged with conspiracy, had sought to evade taxes on "substantial fees." He said Roitman had not reported the cash he received on either his corporate or his personal income tax returns.

Capes also said Palmer received cash on several occasions in 1978, but did not specify how much.

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