



PRESS RELEASE

Greenbelt Man Sentenced in Tax Fraud Scheme

BALTIMORE, MD (August 18, 2017) - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh and Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot announced today that Anne Arundel County Circuit Judge Michele Jaklitsch sentenced Darwin Acosta, 31, of Greenbelt to five years' imprisonment, with all but 90 days suspended, and five years' probation. Acosta also was ordered to pay \$11,064.23 in restitution. [Indicted earlier this year](#), Acosta previously pleaded guilty to one count of felony theft scheme of \$10,000 to \$100,000.

From March 2014 through June 2014, Acosta prepared and electronically filed fraudulent Maryland tax returns using the personal identifying information of numerous unknowing victims. Acosta used the fraudulent tax returns to claim tax refunds and directed the refunds to be deposited into a bank account he controlled. Based on the fraudulent tax returns, the Comptroller's office electronically deposited \$11,064.23 in tax refunds into that bank account. Acosta then used the money to pay personal expenses.

Attorney General Frosh and Comptroller Franchot commended the investigative efforts of the Comptroller's Field Enforcement and Revenue Administration Divisions. The case was prosecuted by the Fraud and Corruption Unit of the Maryland Attorney General's Office.