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Federal jury in Chicago convicts 6 men in nationwide IRS fraud scheme

Tribune staff report

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A federal jury in Chicago convicted six defendants Monday in a nationwide scheme that helped some 650 wealthy taxpayers cheat the Internal Revenue Service out of about \$60 million.

Michael Vallone of Orland Park, Edward Bartoli of Clearwater, Fla., Robert Hopper of Gadsden, Ala., Timothy Dunn of Chesterton, Ind., William Cover of Naperville and Michael Dowd of Glenview were convicted of tax-fraud conspiracy and other charges after the 11-week trial in U.S. District Court.

U.S. District Judge Charles Norgle ordered that Vallone and Dunn be taken into custody following the verdict. The other four remain free on bail.

Authorities said the tax-avoidance scheme was one of the largest of its kind ever prosecuted in the U.S. A lengthy undercover probe was led by the IRS Criminal Investigation Division.

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