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Man In Legal Service Acted Illegally?

August 07, 1986 | By JIM SMITH, Daily News Staff Writer

A man who owns a filing service for area lawyers and the only private agency authorized by Municipal Court to evict tenants was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury here for allegedly evading \$30,861 in federal income taxes.

"I don't have any comment," said Mitchell Rubin, a 50 percent owner of B& R Services for Professionals, 1315 Walnut St., the largest filing service for lawyers in the city.

Rubin, 34, of August Drive, Huntingdon Valley, Montgomery County, has been the subject of a federal corruption investigation that began in late 1982 and focused on allegations that his businesses received favorable treatment from city employees.

Story continues below.

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B&R's job is to deliver lawyers' legal papers to area courts in return for fees from the lawyers. The firm reportedly works for some 1,500 local law firms.

The Daily News reported in December 1982 that B&R's records had been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury as part of a corruption investigation.

Several years earlier, the district attorney investigated allegations of corruption involving B&R, but nothing came of that investigation.

At that time, Rubin and his partner, Frederic Blum, had free reign in the prothonotary's office, the record-keeping arm of the city's Common Pleas Courts.

The two were able to use the office an hour before it was opened to the public, had a desk there, used city phones, fetched docket books and sometimes answered inquiries from the public.

The grand jury yesterday charged Rubin with evading taxes between 1980 and 1982, a period when he reported a taxable income of \$106,873 but allegedly failed to report additional income totaling \$73,077.

If convicted, he could be jailed for 15 years, fined \$15,000 and ordered to pay all back taxes plus interest and a \$15,000 fraud penalty, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael R. Lazerwitz, the case prosecutor.

Lazerwitz said he could not comment about the corruption probe.

The tax case has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Charles R. Weiner.

Rubin's other business, known as Blum & Rubin, is authorized by Municipal Court to evict tenants, said Matthew Tierney, deputy court administrator.

For this work, Blum & Rubin earn fees from landlords and are not paid by the city, Tierney said.

According to Tierney, only the sheriff of Philadelphia and Blum & Rubin are authorized to serve eviction papers on tenants.

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