

## Mogul lacks money to pay lawyers

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A Washington telecommunications mogul who once dreamed of buying his own space station now says he can't even afford to pay the attorneys defending him in what's been dubbed the biggest tax fraud case in U.S. history.

Lawyers for Walter Anderson filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Washington to withdraw from the case because of their client's "inability to pay his attorney fees."

"While counsel understands that Mr. Anderson has made efforts to obtain the funds ... his inability to do so, regrettably, has resulted in a deterioration of the attorney-client relationship."

Judge Paul L. Friedman tabled a decision on the motion pending a September hearing. In the meantime, he ordered the law firm Chadbourne and Park to continue representing Anderson.

Anderson, who investigators said hid more than \$450 million of his income overseas to avoid paying taxes, might now request a court-appointed attorney, according to court documents.

Prosecutors object to the defense's motion to withdraw from the case, noting the amount of time they have invested reviewing hundreds of boxes of documents to prepare for trial. In court papers filed last week, the prosecution also stated it plans to "vigorously oppose" any effort from Anderson to secure court-appointed counsel.

"The government does not believe the defendant to be indigent," the U.S. Attorney's Office wrote, adding that Anderson has repeatedly offered to pay a substantial bond in exchange for his release.

Anderson made his fortune building and selling businesses during the telecommunications boom of the 1990s.

The court currently is considering another request for Anderson to be released on bond, but in the meantime he remains jailed.

### Details of the case

- Anderson was arrested on Feb. 26 as he stepped off a plane at Dulles International Airport.
- A 12-count indictment alleges he failed to pay more than \$200 million in local and federal income taxes over two decades.
- A federal judge ordered Anderson held without bond, citing a potential risk of flight.

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