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Watch out Swiss banks says Washington lawyer dealing with tax disclosures

A Washington tax lawyer has told me that Swiss banks (other than UBS) should expect the US government to bring charges against them for breaking US laws by promoting tax evasion services on US soil. I was reporting for [World Radio Switzerland](#).



[Chris Rizek](#), from the firm [Caplin and Drysdale](#) is part of a team processing hundreds of request from Americans with offshore accounts who are now coming clean to the US government.

He worked in the US Treasury from 1995 to 1998 under President Clinton and was also a Trial Attorney at the Justice Department's Tax Division.

Americans are taking advantage of the **Voluntary Disclosure Program**. If they qualify, they will evade prosecution and pay a relatively reasonable set of fines. The scheme has prompted thousands to come forward and the US Internal Revenue Service, the IRS, has now extended the deadline to **October 15th**.

Tax evaders have to provide information to the US government, including details of contacts with the offshore institution they dealt with.

Chris says some of his clients are saying that they had face-to-face meetings with bankers on US soil.

That could spell major problems for some offshore banks with a US presence. Remember, the US government was able to successfully go after UBS and demand names from the Swiss government because they had leverage - evidence that UBS staff promoted offshore activities on US soil.

Here's a copy of the interview in audio form to listen on your browser or download (by right clicking): [Download 0922disclosure-dr](#)

Daniel Ryntjes, Washington Correspondent

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