

## KC lawyer admits debt



JIM McTAGGART/The Star

Lawyer Robert G. Duncan (left) leaves the courthouse with his attorney, John P. O'Connor (right), and his son, Stephen Duncan.

**He owes IRS \$655,000** for failing to pay his income taxes since 1983.

By JOHN T. DAUNER  
Staff Writer

Robert G. Duncan, a prominent Kansas City criminal defense lawyer, pleaded guilty Tuesday to evading federal income taxes since 1983 after prosecutors charged that he owed \$655,000.

Duncan pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of willfully failing to pay income taxes in an unusual court action in which he was arraigned on the charges, pleaded guilty and sentenced on the same day.

He was placed on probation for three years after negotiating a plea agreement with federal prosecutors. He will serve the first two months of probation in a halfway house and the next four months in home confinement, both with provisions for work release.

U.S. Magistrate John T. Maughmer also ordered Duncan to pay \$157,840 in restitution. In addition, he must complete 400 hours of community service work, preferably free legal work through a Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association program.

The sentence, which included a long list of conditions, was designed to put Duncan on the road to paying his taxes, which total more than \$655,000! with interest and penalties, Maughmer said.

When it was his turn to speak in court, Duncan turned to a courtroom crowded with defense lawyers and prosecutors and apologized and thanked them for their presence.

"I have embarrassed my friends, my family, my  
See **LAWYER, C-2**, Col. 4

