

# Tax Resolution Times

*“Read About Taxpayers with IRS Problems & Find Out How to Solve Them”*



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Grass Isn't Greener on the Other Side...Page 1

True Lies and the IRS Agent Who Told Them...Page 1

Controller Takes Control and Funds Her Own Company...Page 2

Take 1.2 Million of These and Call Me in the Morning...Page 2

Thank You!...Page 2

Businessman Steals \$570,000 ..Page 3

Paul Piper In a Pickle...Page 3

Client of the Month...Page 3

Did You Know...Page 4

Trivia Contest...Page 4

IRS Question Answered...Page 4

## **Grass Isn't Greener on the Other Side for this Couple**

Dick Brocato and his wife Judith, owners of Superior Lawn Service in Beaumont Texas, have each been sentenced to 33 months in prison after a jury found them guilty of conspiracy to defraud the United States for purposes of impeding the government functions of the IRS, and six counts of making and submitting false tax returns.

The Brocatos who started their business in 1981, grew it to include eight full-time teams of lawn care specialists. The couple under reported their income by \$503,281 in 2012, \$687,534 in 2013 and \$513,498 in 2014. To facilitate their scheme, the Brocatos cashed numerous checks from customers instead of depositing them into the company's accounts, then failed to report the cash on their tax returns.

The Brocato's son, Brandon, is listed as an employee of the company but has not been charged with a crime. In addition to the prison sentence the Brocatos were ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$617,762 to the IRS and fines of \$15,000 each.

## **True Lies and the IRS Agent Who Told Them**

Jennifer True, who was employed by the IRS for 22 years as a Lead Contact Representative, pleaded guilty to the preparation of at least 70 false tax returns while an employee of the United States.

True filed more than 500 tax returns for herself and others and admitted to falsifying items such as individual retirement accounts, medical expenses, unreimbursed business expenses and/or tax preparation fees. The IRS prohibits employees from "Engaging in the preparation of tax returns for compensation, gift or favor."

True faces up to eight years in prison and \$500,000 in restitution.

### Question:

How can you tell when a tax auditor is trying to trap you into a confession?

### Answer:

When his lips are moving.

## Controller Takes Control and Funds Her Own Company

Sue O'Neill, controller for Marco Contractors in Pittsburgh, PA has been sentenced to 64 months in prison for wire fraud and filing false income tax returns.

O'Neill embezzled approximately 8.7 million dollars over a nine-year period from the family owned business. She used 6.7 million dollars of the stolen money to open Bulldog Contractors with a partner, and the remaining two million went into her personal bank account.

O'Neill bought two 1969 Ford Shelby GT500s for \$165,000 each and spent \$163,000 renovating a 1969 Ford Mustang. She also spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on a country club membership and jewelry and didn't report any of the stolen funds on her tax returns.

In addition to the prison sentence, she is ordered to pay restitution of 8.5 million dollars to Marco Contractors, \$215,000 to another Marco controlled company, and \$428,000 to the IRS.

## Take 1.2 Million of These and Call Me in the Morning

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, whose medical practice in North Carolina treated patients with chronic pain, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for tax evasion, money laundering and unlawful distribution of opioids.

When Kumar found himself on the brink of financial ruin after Blue Cross terminated his contract due to billing irregularities, he fired his entire staff and became a one-man prescription machine. His new office hours were late afternoon and evening, and he only saw "patients" who paid him \$200 cash for a monthly prescription for opioids. Dr. Kumar went from writing 100 prescriptions for controlled substances in 2011 to prescribing more than 1.2 million oxycodone pills alone between 2013 and 2016.

Kumar deposited the cash in multiple bank accounts, always making sure the deposits were under the minimum amount to trigger reporting to the Department of the Treasury. He spent over \$175,000 on four cars, \$70,000 at Best Buy, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in purchases from Amazon.

At his arrest Kumar had \$145,000 cash with him and another \$450,000 was discovered in his home. Police also found 35 firearms and more than 40,000 rounds of ammunition.

## Thank you!

Thank you - Melody Lankford with Lankford Law Firm who trusts us to take care of her valued clients. Thanks to YOU, the word is spreading. Thanks to my clients and friends who graciously referred me to their friends, clients and relatives last month! I enjoy building my business based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you.

I just couldn't do it without you!

## *Businessman Steals \$570,000 In Payroll Taxes From His Employees and Gets Caught for the Third Time*

The owner of two Rhode Island businesses, that supply steel and iron to construction sites pleaded guilty to intentionally failing to turn over to the IRS federal employment taxes and FICA payments withheld from his employees totaling more than \$570,000.

Steven Allard's companies, BR Steel Corporation and Greystone Iron, have more than 100 employees combined, and specialize in major construction projects such as shopping malls and school buildings. Allard used \$216,000 to pay for "credits" to a dating website, RussianBrides.com, and \$93,000 in rent payments for a luxury home.

This is the third time Allard has been convicted of a crime. In 2009 he was sentenced to 30 months in prison for tax evasion and bankruptcy fraud after spending 1.6 million dollars that was owed to the IRS in employment taxes. He was also charged with making false statements about real estate holdings in a bankruptcy. Before that conviction Allard was sentenced to 10 months in prison for accepting kickbacks from public employees.

### *Are You My Next Client of the Month?*

Every month I choose a very special *Client of the Month*. It's my way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks!" to those who support me and my business with referrals, word of mouth and repeat business.

This month's Client of the Month is James. James had large Trust Fund Penalties from payroll taxes on a closed business. The IRS was moving to seize his properties. We were able to stop the seizure and buy James some time to get the properties sold on his own. This saved him many thousands of dollars, as a seizure would result in the properties being sold a fire sale prices. We also facilitated the lien discharge so that clear title could be transferred to the new owners of the properties. Congratulations, James!

You might be my next *Client of the Month* too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming month.

## **Paul Piper In a Pickle After Picking More than a Peck of Boss's Cash**

Paul Piper was sentenced to 63 months in prison for bank fraud and filing a false tax return after embezzling more than 1.7 million dollars from the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, where he was employed as the company's controller.

Piper stole the funds between 2007 and 2018. He wrote checks directly to himself and to two businesses he owned, Piper Tax and Accounting and Piper Group. He forged the signatures of company owners or used a signature stamp without permission and hid the transactions by attributing them to an insurance expense code or by making false entries.

Piper was ordered to pay restitution to the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, which operates between Luddington, Michigan and Manitowok, Wisconsin, in the amount of \$1,740,037.91. Prior to his conviction he had already forfeited a 2018 Ford Ram Truck, a 2008 Glacier Bay recreational vehicle and cash.

### Did You Know?

A whistleblower who reports someone to the IRS, who didn't pay their taxes can receive up to 30% of what is collected in taxes penalties, and interest.

### Thank you for the Kind Words...

Robin says "Everyone at Fix-It Accounting has been very professional and a pleasure to work with helping resolve issues from prior tax years.

### I'd Like to Hear From You!

If you have an IRS issue, or just want to refer a friend, relative or client, we'd love to hear from you. We can provide a no-obligation confidential consultation to help you solve your IRS problems.

Roz Strategies © 2020

## Enter Our Trivia Contest for a Chance to Win a \$250 Transferrable Gift Certificate!

### Take the Trivia Challenge to win!

Each month, I'll give you a new trivia question. The first **THREE** people who call my office with the correct answer win a free \$250 reduction on any NEW IRS RESOLUTION service I provide. Your prize is also transferrable, so use it for yourself, or give it to a family member or friend. Take your best guess and call me at 386-320-5347

This month's question is....

**Starbucks has sold how many pumpkin spice lattes since the company introduced the fall favorite in 2003?**

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) More than 100 million | c) More than 250 million |
| b) More than 600 million | d) More than 425 million |

### Your IRS Questions Answered Here...

**Question:** *I'm currently separated from my spouse, who owns his own business, and we are in the process of getting a divorce. I have always filed jointly with my spouse and now the IRS is sending me notices stating I owe \$35,000. I have no idea how they are coming up with this amount as my spouse said he was paying the IRS.*

**Answer:** You may be able to avoid this liability entirely under the IRS's Innocent Spouse Relief rules. Under federal law if an income tax return is signed by both husband and wife, both spouses are 100% responsible for the taxes owed. However, the law permits special consideration where a spouse cannot be held responsible for mistakes that are attributable to the other spouse.

If you meet the following criteria you may be able to apply for innocent spouse relief: *Your spouse didn't report all their income; and you were not aware of it and no reason to know about it when you signed the tax return; and it would be unfair to hold you liable for the taxes owed due to your spouse's error.* If you feel you were deceived by your spouse or tricked into signing a return you thought was correct this will help your case too. There are many other ways you may be eligible for relief under the IRS's innocent spouse rules and we can help sort this out and determine the proper path for resolution.

We at Fix-it Accounting are experts in IRS tax problem resolution and help taxpayers with their IRS Problems every day. **There is a solution to EVERY problem.** Call us today at 386-320-5347 for a FREE confidential consultation.