

Tax Resolution Times

"Read About Taxpayers with IRS Problems & Find Out How to Solve Them"



Empire Star Terrence Howard Under Investigation for Tax Evasion

According to court documents obtained by The Blast, a celebrity news site, the federal government is investigating Empire star Terrence Howard for criminal tax evasion and financial crimes along with his third wife Mira Pak and the company she owns, Universal Bridges Inc.

In April 2019, the State of California Franchise Tax Board filed a tax lien against Howard for \$143,538 from income taxes owing from 2010. Howard also had a federal tax lien in 2010 for \$1.1 million and in 2006 for \$600,000.

However, Howard's second ex-wife is claiming that Howard is using the pending investigation to avoid paying \$1 million that she claims he still owes her from a settlement in 2013. Terrence recently filed documents in the divorce settlement case trying to move the date of an upcoming hearing because of the investigation opened on him. His ex-wife, Michelle Ghent, also claims that Terrence is using his own criminal conduct to shield himself from her attempts to enforce the judgment.

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I'll Bet You Didn't Know...

The Rosetta Stone, the most significant relic of Egyptian history, is a tax-oriented document. It was inscribed around 200 B.C. during the reign of the boy-king Ptolemy V. It was so important that it was written in three languages. In fact, a large percentage of all ancient documents are tax records of one kind or another.

When Americans started paying annual federal income tax in 1913, they would save money in anticipation of paying a lump sum at the end of the years to the government. It wasn't until World War II, when the government needed a more consistent stream of income to fund the war, that taxes started being withheld from paychecks.

Boy Wonder Not So Wonderful

Chris Roberts, a former councilman and school board member from Jefferson Parrish, LA, was indicted on 29 counts of tax evasion and wife fraud, just 10 days after resigning.

Roberts was hailed as the “boy wonder” when he was elected to the office two decades ago at the age of 21.

The charges state that Roberts under-reported his income to the IRS every year from 2010 to 2016. He amended them after learning about the investigation, but still withheld income information from business interests and gambling winnings.

Roberts also worked as a general manager for a landscaping company and wrote checks to himself and his other businesses from the landscaping company’s checking account for over \$41,000. Among his purchases was a 2-carat diamond ring he used as an engagement ring for his second wife. Roberts blamed his financial problems on his divorce from his first wife, although he has been sued 5 times from creditors which resulted in 4 judgements against him in the amount of \$267,713.

If convicted on all counts, Roberts could face up to 475 years in prison and a fine of \$6.2 million.

Tax Defier Might Be Protesting from Prison

Lawrence Martin Birk, from Colorado, was convicted of tax evasion by a federal jury in Denver, CO after a one-week trial.

Birk was the sole owner of Tarryall River Log Homes, LLC, and considered himself a tax defier. For more than 20 years, Birk didn’t pay federal income taxes. It wasn’t until the IRS started collection efforts, including visiting Birk at his home, that he hired a firm to prepare 8 years of back taxes. Birk was not honest with the firm and omitted \$400,000 of retirement income distributions that he funneled through a sham company. Even after filing these returns, Birk refused to pay what was owed. He sent the IRS threatening letters using frivolous tax arguments from known tax defier organizations such as the “We the People” foundation and the “Tax Honesty” movement.

The IRS took steps to seize the money from Birk’s bank accounts, and after he was notified about the pending seizure, he purchased cashier’s checks to reduce his balance and impede the IRS’ ability to collect. Birk’s outstanding tax liabilities, including taxes, penalties and interest were over \$2 million for the years 1998 to 2005. He has not filed tax returns or made any tax payments since 2006. Sentencing is pending.

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 IRS 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 (831) 471-8951

This month’s question is....

During his lifetime King Tut contracted multiple infections of what disease?

- a) Malaria
- b) Cholera
- c) Schistosomiasis
- d) Typhoid

Call today at (831) 471-8951

Waco, Texas Tax Preparer Tries Wacko Scheme

Tax preparer, Janell Lighter, from Waco, TX pled guilty to conspiracy to defraud the United States in federal court.

In the indictment and information presented at the hearing it revealed Lighter assisted her co-defendant Stacey Anderson in preparing and filing false tax returns. Anderson operated her business out of her home in Waco. In 2013 and 2014, the payer filed returns that claimed false business items and/or education tax credits in order to fraudulently increase their client's tax refunds from the IRS. Lightner and Anderson prepared returns for clients in Texas, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The tax loss caused by Lightner to the IRS is estimated at over \$1.3 million.

In June, 2019, Anderson also pled guilty to the conspiracy charge along with filing a false personal income tax return in 2014. Anderson admitted that her actions caused a loss of over \$10 million to the IRS.

Both defendants face a maximum penalty of five years in prison for the conspiracy charge, as well as a period of supervised release, restitution and monetary penalties. Both are due to be sentenced at the end of the year.

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 Sharon M. *I really appreciate your sense of humor and grace during our conversation with Revenue Officer "Lucifer".*

You actually helped ME keep my head and stay focused and on topic. Thank you, Sharon!

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

Crazy Tax Deductions Denied!

>“Alternative” medical expenses: A New York lawyer tried to write off over \$110,000 he spent on prostitutes, claiming they were part of his medical treatment for osteoarthritis. No, said the IRS, on the basis of prostitution being illegal in his state of New York. Worth noting is that while the IRS frowns upon deducting (as a medical expense), the fees charged illegally by prostitutes, the IRS requires the prostitutes to pay taxes on the fees they earn.

>Feeding and dressing your model child: A photographer tried to deduct the costs of feeding and clothing her child, claiming it as a business expense because she sometimes used her child as a model in her business. The IRS said no, allowing the photographer to deduct only the price of outfits the child wore in photographs for which the photographer was paid.

>Too much fun to be deductible: A farmer wanted to deduct the cost of his ATV, claiming that he used it to “check the fence lines” on his property. His accountant felt like the off-roading seemed a little too fun to not raise red flags with the IRS, which it did. Deduction denied.

Source: Reader's Digest

Tax Resolution Times

Taxes by Stephen Taylor

I got my paycheck
Half was almost gone
I bought a tank of gas
What's going on?
I bought a load of bread
This can't be for real
I pay the toll man
What is the deal?
I got a license
Here we go again
I live on my land
I'll pay the man
When I die
Will I pay taxes still?
You better believe it
Out of your will

Thank you for the Kind Words...

*Thank you so much,
Trish.*

*I just may be able to
sleep all the way through
this night!*

Carol T.

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.

Call 831-471-8951

Email:
santacruztaxrelief@gmail.com

t will be a Concrete Jungle for Paving Company Owner

Douglas Wieland of Denver, CO, was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of failure to pay income taxes.

Wieland was the owner of Performance Paving, a company that performed concrete and asphalt work. According to court documents, it was shown that from April 1999 through December 2017, Wieland did not make any payments toward his income taxes, and admitted that he took steps to conceal his income and hide his assets to prevent the IRS seizing them. Wieland opened a "warehouse bank account", in which there are numerous account holders on a single account where the funds get commingled to maintain financial privacy. He deposited over \$1.8 million to pay his personal expenses. Wieland also admitted in court that he would cash customer's checks whenever possible.

In addition to jail time, Wieland was ordered to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$166,658.

Your IRS Questions Answered Here

Question: *I owe \$55,000+ in back taxes but I think I can handle this myself. Is there any reason why I shouldn't deal with the IRS on my own?*

Answer: One of the worst things you can do is talk to the IRS directly without proper representation. Would you go to court without a lawyer? You are guilty until proven innocent when it comes to dealing with the IRS. The IRS is not on your side and their primary goal is to aggressively collect money they think is theirs.

However, you do have rights as a taxpayer. One of those rights is the right to representation. If an IRS revenue officer or revenue agent shows up at your front door, will you know what to say or do? The IRS will ask you a series of very intrusive, intimidating questions in the initial interview with them, and how you answer these questions will dictate the fate of your case. Half of the referrals to the IRS's criminal investigation division come from that "nice" revenue officer you're having a conversation with.

A CPA or Enrolled Agent or an attorney who is also a tax resolution specialist can conduct these meetings on your behalf. They know how to navigate the IRS maze because they do this for a living, day-in, day-out. They know the "ins" and "outs" and know how to deal with the IRS so your rights are protected. A tax resolution specialist also knows how to protect your income and assets from levy's and seizures and get you the lowest possible settlement allowed by law.

We at Santa Cruz Tax Debt Relief 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! (831) 471-8951 for a FREE confidential consultation.