


Lawler & Witkowski, CPAs, PC

Taxing Times

VOL. LVIII

Read about taxpayers with IRS problems and learn helpful tips on how to end them.

ASTPS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

pg. 1 Congressional Staffer Did
 Not File Tax Returns

pg. 1 Fisherman Admits to
 Income Tax Evasion

pg. 2 Miami Univ Official
 Sentenced to Prison

pg. 2 Tax Problems for Fried
 Chicken Chain Owner

pg. 3 Conn. Man to Serve Two
 Months in Prison

pg. 4 Tax-Dodging Couple Gets
 Three Years in Prison

CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER DID NOT FILE TAX RETURNS

*A high-ranking official in Washington, D.C.,
 was charged with tax violations.*

A top Congressional staffer did not file his income tax returns for five years, according to federal prosecutors.

Avant, 38, has been employed by the U.S. House of Representatives since 2002.

Isaac Lanier Avant, chief of staff to Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi and Democratic staff director for the Homeland Security Committee, earned annual wages of more than \$170,000 but did not file tax returns for the years 2009 through 2013.

Thompson said he would not fire his aide, who faces five years in prison if convicted. "I trust that everyone will afford Mr. Avant the presumption of innocence to which all Americans are constitutionally entitled," the congressman said in a statement.

FISHERMAN ADMITS TO INCOME TAX EVASION

A Connecticut fisherman will serve three months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, after pleading guilty to tax evasion.

come generated through his work as a commercial fishing boat captain.

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According to court records, Peter Torres, 48, of East Lyme, Conn., failed to file tax returns and report to the IRS approximately \$1.27 million in gross in-

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Torres also admitted that, in an effort to conceal his income from the IRS, he negotiated checks he received as payment for his fishing services by depositing them in the bank and, on the same day, withdrawing cash or obtaining bank checks in varying amounts under \$10,000. ■

MIAMI UNIV OFFICIAL SENTENCED TO PRISON

A former director of finance at the University of Miami received 37 months in prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release, for tax evasion and failing to report to the IRS \$2.3 million that she embezzled from the university.

Kimberly Jean Miller, 58, pleaded guilty to four counts of tax evasion.

According to court documents, from 2002 to 2012, Miller was the director of finance at the University of Miami's Rosensteel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Miller used her authority to embezzle \$2.3 million from the University of Miami by falsifying invoices from a vendor called International Assets.

Miller prepared her own tax returns for those years and did not report the money she had embezzled. ■

ARE YOUR TAX PROBLEMS KEEPING YOU AWAKE AT NIGHT?

Let's put them to rest.

For a free consultation, call 716-631-5111

TAX PROBLEMS FOR FRIED CHICKEN CHAIN OWNER

The owner of a chain of fried chicken restaurants allegedly paid employees under the table.

A man who operated fried chicken restaurants in the Boston area has been charged with conspiring to file false tax returns as part of a scheme to avoid paying payroll and income taxes.

Hazrat Khan, 56, of Middletown, N.Y., was indicted on one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and 11 counts of willful failure to account for and pay taxes.

Khan was previously indicted in April on similar charges relating to two other fried chicken restaurants he operated.

According to the indictment, Khan used a variety of means to avoid paying payroll and income taxes owed by his restaurant, New York Fried Chicken.

As part of the conspiracy, Khan directed a co-conspirator to manage the restaurant and took steps to conceal his own-

ership interest. Khan provided tax preparers with false information about the restaurant's payroll and income.

Khan falsely reported the number of employees, some of whom were undocumented, and wages paid to the IRS.

He also paid employees under the table and filed income tax returns under penalties of perjury that falsely described their sales, total income, compensation of officers, salaries, wages, and taxable income.

Khan faces up to five years in prison for conspiracy and up to five years for each charge of willful failure to account for and pay taxes. He also faces a fine of up to \$250,000. ■

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ABOUT THE OFFER IN COMPROMISE

Did you know it's possible to settle your debt with the Internal Revenue Service for less than the IRS says you owe?

If you owe a substantial amount in back taxes to the government, you may be eligible to participate in the Offer in Compromise program. This program allows you to make an offer to the IRS that could settle your tax debt for significantly less than you owe.

Call to learn more about this program.
(716)-631-5111

ABOUT THE INSTALLMENT AGREEMENT

*Are you earning a good living but just unable to pay your back taxes?
The Installment Agreement
may be the option.*

The Installment Agreement allows taxpayers to pay their tax debt over time by making manageable payments. The Installment Agreement can put you back in control of your financial future.

Call to learn more about this program.
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CONN. MAN TO SERVE TWO MONTHS IN PRISON

The chiropractor filed false income tax returns.

A Connecticut chiropractor will serve two months in prison for filing false tax returns.

Paul Carpenter, 65, of Easton, Conn., must also perform 100 hours of community service and pay a \$30,000 fine.

According to court records, Carpenter operated a chiropractic practice in Bridgeport. For the 2008 and 2009 tax years, Carpenter intentionally mischaracterized almost \$500,000 in personal expenses as deductible business expenses on his Schedule C relating to his chiropractic practice, including college tuition for his children, luxury items such as oriental rugs and paintings, designer clothing, and foreign and domestic travel. He also deducted the cost of groceries, expenses at hair salons and other retail purchases.

For the 2008 tax year, Carpenter took false deductions totaling \$308,084, resulting in a tax loss of \$106,395, and for the 2009 tax year, he took false deductions totaling \$183,283, resulting in a tax loss of \$81,199.

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TAX-DODGING COUPLE GETS THREE YEARS IN PRISON

Following a 20-year dispute with the IRS, a husband and wife will spend the next three years in prison.

Barbara Gasich, 54, and George Gasich, 55, formerly of St. John, Ind., and now residing in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., spent two decades filing false tax returns and numerous false documents seeking large refunds,

according to court records.

An IRS agent testified that the Gasichs had earned more than \$3 million since 2000, but had only voluntarily paid \$7,458 in federal income tax.

The Gasichs owe more than \$1.28 million in outstanding tax, interest and penalties.



We are Western New York's ONLY firm of Certified Tax Resolution Specialists. Our dedication to the principles of professionalism & responsiveness has resulted in our guarantee to:

1. Explore alternative solutions to client tax problems.
2. Select the solution we believe is in our client's best interest.
3. Explain our decision to clients, and
4. Aggressively pursue the solution decided upon.

We further guarantee to:

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CALL TODAY FOR A **FREE CONSULTATION**

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If you're ready to be rescued, call me today to schedule a free consultation.

Lawrence M. Lawler
(716)-631-5111

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