

# Taxing Times

NOVEMBER 2020

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



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"Encompassing all of your tax needs"

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## REPORT: NRA CHIEF UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR TAX FRAUD

*News of the investigation comes after New York state alleged undisclosed compensation.*

The Internal Revenue Service is investigating National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre for tax fraud, according to reporting by *The Wall Street Journal*.

The *Journal*, which attributed information to "people familiar with the matter," said the IRS criminal probe involves LaPierre's personal taxes.

LaPierre, 70, joined the NRA in 1977 and helped grow the organization and its

influence on American politics. In 2018, the NRA paid LaPierre \$2.2 million

In August, New York Attorney General Letitia James charged LaPierre in a civil suit alleging that he took millions of dollars in undisclosed compensation from the NRA.

At the time, James declined to say during a news conference whether LaPierre evaded taxes on that income.

## BROTHER OF RABBI GUILTY OF \$700K TAX EVASION

Mendel Goldstein, the owner of a videography business in Brooklyn, New York, pleaded guilty in federal court to tax evasion charges relating to a long-running conspiracy with his brother, Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein.

Until around 2018, Yisroel Goldstein was the director and head rabbi at

Chabad of Poway, a tax-exempt organization that the brothers used to divert Mendel Goldstein's income and conceal more than *CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

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\$700,000 in earnings from the IRS. They hid the money by depositing it into Chabad accounts, then secretly funneling it back to Mendel Goldstein by writing checks to fictitious names like “Mr. Green,” “Mr. Gold” or “Mr. Fish.”

Mendel Goldstein faces up to five years in prison.

## CALIFORNIA VET GUILTY OF EVASION

A California veterinarian pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion.

According to court records, Jack Ray Snyder, 63, of Truckee, California, failed to report significant income for tax years 2011 through 2014. Each year, Snyder underreported his income to his tax preparer and took deductions for expenses that were not deductible business expenses.

For the 2011 tax year, Snyder earned outside income as an equine veterinarian in addition to his salary as a professor at the University of California, Davis. He endorsed outside client payment checks to directly pay credit card bills. He failed to report \$212,953 in income for the 2011 tax year.

According to the plea agreement, the additional tax due for the tax years was \$134,497. Snyder faces up to five years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

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## TWO PLEAD GUILTY IN TAX REFUND SCHEME

*A California couple faces up to 10 years in prison after admitting to their role in the scam.*

A California couple pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the United States by submitting false claims for income tax refunds to the IRS.

According to court documents, between March 2012 and February 2015, William Bennett, 42, and Christina Bennett, 38, of Sacramento, California, conspired with Bridget Coilton, 50, also of Sacramento, to defraud the IRS by submitting false claims for income tax refunds for themselves and for others.

According to the plea agreements, Coilton allegedly provided William Bennett with personally identifying information of other people, and he would file tax returns for those people claiming false, inflated tax refunds based on false statements he added to the returns. The false returns contained false claims. For example, the tax returns contained false and fraudulent statements regarding employment, income, withholdings from

income, and dependency exemptions. Some of the federal tax returns also sought tax credits to which the individuals on the returns were not entitled.

The fraudulent statements resulted in refunds that were often directed to be deposited into bank accounts the Bennetts or Coilton controlled. After the IRS issued the refunds, the trio divided the proceeds among themselves, sometimes providing the tax filer with a small portion of the refund.

The charges against Coilton are pending.

William Bennett and Christina Bennett each face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

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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.**

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ABOUT THE  
**INSTALLMENT  
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**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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**FINANCIAL  
PLANNER  
SENTENCED TO  
51 MONTHS**

*He ran an investment fraud and didn't file taxes.*

A former financial planner was sentenced to 51 months in prison after pleading guilty to wire fraud and failure to file tax returns.

According to court records, James A. Young III, 50, of Milton, Florida, solicited his clients and others to invest money in false "side investments," including real estate investments for property he did not own and investments in an oil and gas company with which he had no relationship.

For those who invested, Young pocketed their money, which totaled over half a million dollars. In some instances, Young used money obtained from investors to pay back other investors. He fraudulently claimed the funds were returns or interest on investments. Young also failed to file his federal tax returns for 2012, 2013, and 2014.

As part of his sentence, Young was ordered to pay \$402,207.71 in restitution to two dozen victims and \$125,107.33 in restitution for unpaid taxes to the IRS.

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## PUBLIC OFFICIAL GETS 32 MONTHS FOR TAX CRIME

The former executive director of Georgia's Camden County Public Service Authority was sentenced to 32 months in prison for misappropriating funds intended for payment of employees' federal payroll taxes.

William Brunson, 53, of Kingsland, Ga., pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion.

Brunson was also ordered to pay restitution of \$677,768.40 and to serve three years of supervised release.

"This ... should be a stark reminder to other public servants that they are accountable to the taxpayers they serve," U.S. Attorney Bobby L. Christine said in a statement.



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3. Explain our decision to clients, and
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## CALL TODAY FOR A CONSULTATION

Constantly thinking about how much money you owe the Internal Revenue Service? Always worried that you'll never be able to get out from under this crushing debt? Wondering what effect this debt will have on your future and the future of your family? You're not the only one. Every day, I work with clients to solve tax problems they believe are unsolvable. I'm a member of the American Society of Tax Problem Solvers, and I am part of the rescue squad for troubled taxpayers.

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