

Taxing Times

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

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PAMELA MOSER, CPA, EA
Encompass Tax Solutions, PLLC
P: (509) 888-4339
E: PAMELA@ENCOMPASSTAX.COM
WWW.ENCOMPASSTAXSOLUTIONS.COM
"Encompassing all of your tax needs"

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MAYOR OF TEXAS TOWN OWES \$1.1 MILLION IN UNPAID TAXES TO IRS

David Turner said the seven-figure tax debt is due to a "mix-up" but wouldn't elaborate.

The mayor of Odessa, Texas, owes the IRS \$1.1 million in unpaid payroll taxes, according to records obtained by the *Odessa American* newspaper.

Mayor David Turner said the \$1.1 million debt was due to a paperwork error that "has been taken care of."

"There was a mix-up, but we got it resolved," Turner told the *Odessa American*. "My attorney is waiting for

a receipt from the IRS. Due to COVID everything has been slowed down."

Turner declined to explain what type of "mix-up" caused the tax issue, and the newspaper found that a tax website still showed the debt as current.

Turner has failed on several occasions since 1999 to pay employee payroll taxes on time, according to the *Odessa American*.

BUSINESSMAN FACES FIVE YEARS IN PRISON

An Illinois man pleaded guilty to federal income tax evasion.

Gary T. Petersen, 55, of Crystal Lake, Illinois, was president and sole shareholder of Petersen Sealcoating and Paving. According to court records, Petersen in 2016 deposited checks as payment for services and products into

bank accounts Petersen held by his family members that he controlled. Petersen also cash checks personally.

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For the calendar year 2016, Petersen provided the company income information to his tax preparer, but concealed checks that he deposited into his joint and controlled accounts, and the checks he cashed. Petersen admitted to doing the same for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. He faces up to five years in prison.

MAN GETS ONE YEAR FOR TAX, GAMBLING CHARGES

An Illinois man was sentenced to a year in federal prison for operating an illegal sports bookmaking business and filing false income tax returns.

Domenic Poeta, 63, of Highland Park, Illinois, unlawfully operated a business that provided sports betting and wagering services, both domestically and abroad.

From 2012 to 2017, Poeta obtained more than \$3.7 million from the operation of his bookmaking business. Poeta failed to report his receipt of this income in the federal and state tax returns that he filed for each of those years, resulting in a federal and state tax loss of approximately \$1.49 million.

Poeta pleaded guilty to one count of transmission of wagering information and one count of filing a false tax return.

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CHICAGO LAWYER GETS 18 MONTHS IN TAX CASE

He admitted to helping another lawyer evade taxes on income from a tobacco company settlement.

A former attorney in Illinois was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for assisting another lawyer in evading taxes on income received from a multibillion-dollar legal settlement with tobacco companies.

Edward R. Vrdolyak, 82, of Chicago, pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion. Vrdolyak admitted in a plea agreement that he assisted another lawyer, Daniel P. Soso, in evading federal income taxes on income from a \$9.2 billion settlement between the State of Illinois and a number of tobacco companies in the 1990s. At the time of the settlement, Vrdolyak and Soso were licensed Illinois attorneys. The pair collected legal fees from the settlement pursuant to agreements with one of the attorneys that represented the State of Illinois. According to these agreements, Vrdolyak made payments to Soso between 2000 and 2005 of approximately \$1.9 million, representing Soso's agreed-upon share

of the fees from the litigation.

In August 2005, the IRS served a notice of levy on Vrdolyak, which required the turnover of all salary, wages and other amounts owed to Soso. Over the next two years, Vrdolyak received approximately \$262,854 due to Soso, but he concealed receipt of these funds from the IRS, knowing such concealment would assist Soso in evading the payment of taxes and assessments. Vrdolyak admitted in the plea agreement that he later caused approximately \$170,242 to be paid to Soso instead of remitting the funds to the IRS.

Soso, of Alsip, Illinois, also pleaded guilty to tax evasion. He was sentenced to two years in prison.

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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.

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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.

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OWNER OF CLINIC GETS 35 MONTHS IN PRISON

He was also ordered to pay IRS more than \$500,000.

A Florida pain clinic owner was sentenced to 35 months in federal prison and ordered to repay the IRS \$359,209, in addition to a \$150,000 fine.

Tom Wynne, 65, of Pinellas Park, Florida, owned and operated Pain and Wellness Clinic, a pain management clinic in Pinellas County, Florida. He hired medical doctors to prescribe for patients large quantities of Schedule II controlled substances, such as oxycodone and hydromorphone, outside the usual course of professional practice. Wynne used the illegal proceeds generated from his clinic to purchase real estate in the Tampa Bay area.

For each tax year, beginning in 2014 and continuing through tax year 2017, Wynne underreported his clinic's gross receipts on his tax filings. He also conspired and agreed with physicians to defraud the IRS by creating and preparing, among other false and fraudulent tax-related documents, false and fraudulent IRS Forms 1099 to pay the clinic's two doctors. Wynne had pleaded guilty to the charges.

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LAS VEGAS TAX PREPARER CAUSES \$1.5 MILL TAX LOSS

A Las Vegas tax preparer pleaded guilty to preparing and filing fraudulent tax returns on behalf of her clients, causing a total tax loss of at least \$1.5 million.

According to court records, Baby Vasquez Beltran, 53, operated Speed Refund Tax Services, a tax return preparation business

in Las Vegas.

When preparing her clients' tax returns, Beltran fraudulently claimed deductions to which her clients were not entitled.

She faces up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.



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:

1. Return client calls in a timely fashion.
2. Respond to IRS notices in a timely fashion.
3. Treat every client with respect, and
4. Work every case like it was our own.

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P: (509) 888-4339 | F: (509) 728-9168 | E: Pamela@encompasstax.com
330 King Street, Ste 6 | Wenatchee, WA 98801
www.Encompasstaxsolutions.com

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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