

Taxing Times

AUGUST 2020 Read about taxpayers with IRS problems and learn helpful tips on how to end them. **IRSPROB.com**

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Helping Good People with IRS Problems

IN THIS ISSUE:

pg. **1** Civil Rights Lawyers Sentenced For Not Paying All Taxes

pg. **1** Former Professor Filed False Tax Return

pg. **2** Man Filed False Tax Return Related To Gambling Business

pg. **2** Three Sentenced For Tax Scam That Targeted Immigrants

pg. **3** Woman Gets 33 Months In Prison

pg. **4** Man Admits To \$400,000 Tax Evasion Case

CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYERS SENTENCED FOR NOT PAYING ALL TAXES

He is required to pay more than \$140,000, plus interest and penalties.

A Connecticut civil rights lawyer was sentenced to three years of probation — the first six months of which must be served in home confinement — for failing to pay all of the federal income taxes he owed over several years.

William S. Palmieri, of Bethany, Connecticut, pleaded guilty to failure to pay income taxes.

According to court records, Palmieri

reported, but did not pay, all the income taxes he owed, even though he had the ability to make greater tax payments.

The investigation also revealed that Palmieri used his attorney bank account to pay various personal expenses, including his home mortgage.

Palmieri is required to pay \$141,474.53 in back taxes, and \$86,234.47 in interest and penalties, totaling \$227,709.

FORMER PROFESSOR FILED FALSE TAX RETURN

A former Emory University professor who also worked at Chinese universities did not report any of his foreign income on his federal tax returns.

Xiao-Jiang Li joined the Thousand Talents Program, a Chinese-government talent recruitment initiative that targets professors and researchers to work

in China. Li did research at Emory University related to large animals, and he did the same research at Chinese universities. *CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

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Over six years, Li earned at least \$500,000 in foreign income that he never reported on his federal income tax returns.

Li was sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$35,089.

MAN FILED FALSE TAX RETURN RELATED TO GAMBLING BUSINESS

An Illinois man was charged with illegal sports bookmaking and filing a false federal income tax return.

According to court records, Dominic Poeta, 63, of Highland Park, Illinois, operated a business that provided sports betting and wagering services from 2014 to 2018.

Poeta allegedly filed a false federal income tax return for the calendar year 2016 that falsely reported his total income as \$81,609, knowing his actual income substantially exceeded that amount.

If convicted, Poeta faces up to three years in prison, while the bookmaking charge is punishable by up to two years.

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THREE SENTENCED FOR TAX SCAM THAT TARGETED IMMIGRANTS

The trio obtained information from immigrants, and then filed for \$882,000 in bogus refunds.

Two California tax preparers and their recruiter were sentenced to 30 months in prison for their involvement in a tax preparation scam that resulted in the filing of hundreds of false returns, the theft of dozens of victims' personal information and the receipt of more than \$882,000 in bogus federal income tax refunds.

Rahim Ali Cummings and Rashad Abdul-Rahim pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit mail fraud, filing false claims for tax refunds, fraudulent use of a Social Security number and aggravated identity theft. Ebrahim Ashamu admitted in a plea to filing false claims for tax refunds and aggravated identity theft.

Between September 2011 and September 2012, Cummings and Ashamu prepared and filed the false tax returns out of their

businesses in El Cajon, California, and employed the services of Abdul-Rahim to recruit customers and obtain stolen identities.

Abdul-Rahim solicited and obtained the personal identifying information from the victims using false pretenses, such as informing the victims they could obtain "free" government money from alleged grant and senior programs, and concealing the fact that their personal information would be used to file false tax returns.

Many of the people Abdul-Rahim obtained information from were immigrants from countries such as Somalia and Nigeria who knew very little, if anything, about U.S. tax laws.

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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 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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WOMAN GETS 33 MONTHS IN PRISON

She did not properly disclose income on stolen goods.

A Colorado woman was sentenced to 33 months in federal prison for mail fraud and tax evasion related to selling fraudulently obtained items on eBay.

Kristin Martin, 39, of Littleton, Colorado, was also ordered to pay \$872,337.68 in restitution for the fraud to her former employer and \$161,864 to the IRS for the tax evasion.

According to court records, Martin worked as an executive assistant. She was provided with a unique identification and password to purchase supplies from Staples. Between January 2013 and December 2016, Martin used her identification and password to fraudulently order unauthorized items such as iPads, Apple TVs, Kindles, and other items which she kept and then resold on eBay.

Martin received at least \$571,725.61 from the resale of the fraudulently ordered items. She provided her accountant false information regarding the cost of goods sold on eBay and other expenses she did not incur in order to significantly reduce her income tax liability.

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MAN ADMITS TO \$400,000 TAX EVASION CASE

A Massachusetts man was sentenced to six months in prison for tax evasion and failing to file tax returns.

Leonard Ngunjiri, 50, of Worcester, Massachusetts, admitted to defrauding the IRS of \$400,000.

Since approximately September 2012, Ngunjiri attempted to evade paying taxes for tax years 2006 through 2008 and 2011 by concealing his assets and not filing federal income tax returns from 2012 through 2017, despite making income in excess of the minimum filing requirements.

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3. Explain our decision to clients, and
4. Aggressively pursue the solution decided upon.

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