

Taxing Times

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

LAW OFFICE OF GERALD R. NOWOTNY, PLLC

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"You deserve to keep more of your hard earned money."

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FORMER OHIO GOP BOSS OWED AND PAID OFF IRS DEBTS

Before he paid off the debt, a dark money group wired \$400,000 to an account he controlled.

Matt Borges was an up-and-comer in Republican politics.

debt whose lien the IRS released in August 2019.

He was a former leader of the Ohio Republican Party, and in 2016, he was a candidate to become head of the Republican National Committee.

The timing of Borges' IRS debt resolution has raised questions. Borges has been charged with federal racketeering charges as part of the largest public bribery case in Ohio history.

But since 2005, Borges has been dogged by tax problems. Most recently, the *Dayton Daily News* reported that Borges owed \$493,624 in unpaid taxes — a

Weeks before Borges paid off his IRS debt, a dark money group wired \$400,000 to an account he controlled.

BOROUGH TREASURER CHARGED IN TAX CASE

A former borough treasurer in Pennsylvania was indicted on three counts of tax evasion for 2015, 2016 and 2017 and 12 counts of failure to account for and pay over employment tax.

dollars between 2015 and 2018 from the Borough of Cressona, where she used to work as the secretary/treasurer.

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According to court records, Erin Hossler, 50, of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, allegedly took hundreds of thousands of

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The Justice Department alleges that Hossler had numerous checks issued to herself, forged signatures on checks, and used online banking for the borough's bank accounts to pay her personal bills.

If convicted, Hossler faces up to five years in prison.

WOMAN SENTENCED FOR FALSE LIENS AGAINST IRS AGENT

A Pennsylvania woman was sentenced to one year in prison and ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine for filing false liens against an IRS agent.

Dorothy Recarde, 68, of Kirkwood, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to endeavoring to obstruct or impede the due administration of the IRS. After an IRS revenue officer tried to collect on a \$24,000 tax debt, Recarde filed two fraudulent liens against the officer.

In letters to the IRS, Recarde espoused sovereign citizen ideology, an anti-government movement that, among other things, denies the government's authority to impose taxes. Bogus and illegal liens, such as those filed by the defendant, are a common tactic used by adherents of the sovereign citizen movement against perceived opponents or enemies.

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OWNERS OF POPULAR CHEESESTEAK SANDWICH JOINT FACE TAX CHARGES

The Justice Department alleges that the two restaurateurs hid more than \$8 million in cash receipts.

The owners of a popular cheesesteak sandwich restaurant in Philadelphia were charged with conspiracy to defraud the IRS, tax evasion, and aiding and assisting in the filing of false tax returns.

Anthony Lucidonio Sr., 82, and his son, Nicholas Lucidonio, 54, both of New Jersey, owned and operated Tony Luke's. According to court records, the father and son restaurateurs hid from the IRS more than \$8 million in cash receipts by, among other things, depositing only a portion of Tony Luke's receipts into business bank accounts and providing incomplete information concerning receipts and income to their accountant.

The Lucidonios, according to the indictment, also committed employment tax fraud by paying employees "off the books" in cash. To evade detection, the men would pay most employees a por-

tion of their wages and salaries "on the books" based on only a portion of the hours they worked. They would then pay cash for the remaining hours worked without withholding taxes.

"Tony Luke's is an iconic Philadelphia brand, but that is not what matters in the eyes of the law," U.S. Attorney William M. McSwain said in a statement. "These are serious allegations and it should go without saying that everyone has an obligation to follow the law."

If convicted, each man faces up to five years in prison for the conspiracy charge and each count of tax evasion, and three years in prison for each false return charge.

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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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EMPLOYEE OF HOCKEY TEAM PLEADS IN TAX CASE

She stole and did not pay taxes on \$700,000.

The former office manager for Rapid City Professional Hockey in South Dakota pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion.

Between February 2010 and June 2019, Jennifer Durham, 42, stole \$700,000.00 from Rapid City Professional Hockey. Durham used the money for her personal expenses and also transferred money to bank accounts she controlled. She did not report the money on her taxes, resulting in a six-figure tax loss.

In order to cover up her theft, Durham made false entries into the hockey team's accounting records to give the illusion the money she was stealing was spent on legitimate business expenses.

As part of the plea agreement, Durham agreed to pay restitution to the hockey team totaling \$700,000 and to pay the IRS \$186,277.

She faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for wire fraud and up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for tax evasion.

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WOMAN FACES THREE YEARS FOR NOT REPORTING INCOME

A Mississippi woman pleaded guilty to filing a false tax return.

Lisa Gordon-Scruggs, 52, of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was the chief operating officer and office manager of Highside Chemicals in Gulfport, Mississippi. Gordon-Scruggs embezzled more than \$2

million from the company. On her 2014 tax return, Gordon-Scruggs reported taxable income of \$34,907 but did not include the \$446,423 that she had embezzled from Highside that year.

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



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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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2. Respond to IRS notices in a timely fashion.
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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.

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

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