

GA. MAN PLEADS GUILTY AFTER NOT FILING TWO YEARS OF RETURNS

Robert C. Boot, 59, of Sharpsburg, Ga., pleaded guilty to two counts of failing to file tax returns. According to court records, Boot failed to file his 2003 and 2004 tax returns until July 2008, after he was contacted by IRS agents. In both years, he owed thousands of dollars in federal taxes. In his plea agreement, Boot admitted to owing \$75,196.25 in taxes and \$33,311 in interest for tax years 2002 to 2004.

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I'd Like To Hear From YOU!
Whether you'd like to avoid the IRS, contact the IRS, settle with the IRS or just want to refer a friend, relative or client, I'd love to hear from you. I would be happy to provide you or that special person you refer a free no-obligation confidential consultation to explain every option available to solve IRS problems.

STEVEN N. KLITZNER

2627 NE Ives Dairy Road, Suite 213
Aventura, Florida 33180
305-682-1118 1-800-219-1118
Email: help@FloridaTaxSolvers.com

STEVEN KLITZNER'S Upcoming Speaking Engagements



4/28 American Society of Tax Problem Solvers
Los Angeles, California "Practice, Practice, Practice"

5/13 American Society of Tax Problem Solvers
Orlando, Florida "Practice, Practice, Practice"

5/16-5/17 Utah Society of Enrolled Agents Park City,
Utah "Winning IRS Audits"

IRS QUESTION CORNER

QUESTION: After doing my taxes this year, I realize I'm in trouble. I owe taxes from previous years, and now I owe even more for 2010. What can I do?

ANSWER: Because the economy has been so lousy these past few years, with a stock market crash a few years ago that severely damaged many people's savings and retirement accounts, I see more and more people every day with the same problem you have.

First, take some comfort in knowing that you are hardly alone. Thousands of other taxpayers are in the exact same situation you are. But please take greater comfort now in knowing that you have options.

I recommend that you immediately set up an appointment with a qualified tax professional. He or she will analyze your previous tax returns closely to make sure they you are not obligating yourself to pay the IRS even a penny more than you owe. You'd be surprised how much supposed tax debt can be eliminated by finding errors in previous tax returns.

Once you and your qualified tax professional have come to the exact amount you owe the IRS, you'll want to consider the Offer in Compromise or the Installment Agreement.

If you qualify for the Offer in Compromise, your tax professional will negotiate a final settlement amount with the IRS. The Offer in Compromise is intended for taxpayers who, even if given time, are unable to pay their tax debt. Instead, the IRS will consider the acceptance of a one-time payment that can amount to a significant discount.

If you do not qualify, you have another alternative: the Installment Agreement. This will allow you to pay down your tax debt by making regular payments.

I handle tax problems every day. For a free, no-risk consultation, please call my office at 305-682-1118 or toll-free at 1-800-219-1118

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"Of course there's nothing there. I'm an IRS auditor."

NEVER FEAR TAX DAY AGAIN?

With April 15th (actually April 18th this year) fast approaching, now is the absolute best time of the year to take care of an IRS debt. Every year, thousands of people say the same thing, "This is the year I am going to finally get back on track and solve my IRS problem." There is just one problem. How do you do it?

Some people call the IRS for help. Others read their website. Trouble is that they do not give you an answer or a way out. The sleepless nights continue. The looking over your shoulder never ends. You almost want the IRS to knock on your door just so you can end the anticipation of the inevitable.

So, here it is. My three tips to ending your IRS problems forever.

1. Get your 2010 return filed by April 15, even if you cannot pay it. You may save thousands of dollars in penalties.
2. File your old unfiled returns. No idea how much you earned? No problem. A member of my team can get the IRS records of your income.
3. Get help before the IRS takes any more action against you. A qualified tax practitioner will put together your financial records and stop the IRS from taking your wages or bank account.

Can you do this without help? Maybe. Keep this in mind. IRS personnel have three words in their job description: **Collect the money.** The IRS is not going to tell you about your rights. They will give you a deal that is best for them, not for you.

The IRS is issuing levies and liens at a record pace. So be careful and be proactive. Call me at 305-682-1118 to reach out to them before they come knocking on your door.

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RACECAR SPECIALIST GETS PRISON FOR TAX EVASION CHARGE

Ian Prout, 38, of Essex, Conn., was sentenced to three months in prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release, for failing to report more than \$250,000 in income on his federal tax returns between 2005 and 2007.

According to court records, Prout was a self-employed racecar specialist. Typically, Prout rented the facilities for the weekend and was paid to teach high-performance car owners how to drive and race their vehicles. Prout also derived income by providing consulting services to car dealerships and marketing firms. Prout deposited most of the income from his racetrack instruction events into his business banking account, but deposited the income from his consulting work into his personal bank account.

When preparing his tax returns, Prout supplied information to his accountant about his business bank account but failed to supply information about his personal bank account. That ensured his tax returns failed to report the total amount of income he received in each year.

For the tax years 2005 to 2007, Prout failed to report \$251,136 in income, resulting in his underpayment of \$74,481 in taxes for those years. Prout was ordered to pay to the IRS approximately \$150,000.

Contractor Guilty in 69-County Indictment

A 34-year-old construction company president in Florida pleaded guilty to a 69-count indictment charging him with failing to file federal corporate income tax returns.

Mauricio Soto, of Navarre, Fla., and the president of Mauricio Soto Concrete Construction, admitted to structuring cash withdrawals in order to avoid federal currency reporting requirements from January 2006 to October 2007. During this period, 62 checks in the amount of \$9,500 each cashed, totaling \$589,000, in an attempt to evade the requirement that financial institutions make reports of currency transactions greater than \$10,000.

Soto also admitted to having failed to file the federal corporate income tax returns for his business, Mauricio Soto Concrete Construction, Inc., for the years 2005 to 2009. Soto's concrete and framing business generated more than \$9 million in gross receipts during the years 2005 to 2009 from new housing construction.

Soto faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine for each cash-reporting violation. He also faces additional years and fines for the other charges as well as potential deportation since he is not a U.S. citizen.

La. Woman Sentenced to Prison for Refund Scheme

Levonne Stewart, 42, of Baton Rouge, La., was sentenced to 48 months in prison and order to pay \$70,485.38 in restitution to the IRS after pleading guilty to conspiracy to file false claims for tax refunds, wire fraud, and aggravated identity theft.

Stewart conspired with others to obtain the names and Social Security numbers of various individuals and to prepare false and fraudulent federal income tax returns for filing with the IRS.

The conspiracy included falsely claiming that taxpayers had been self-employed and had earned income to maximize the refund amount obtained. In all, Stewart's participation in this scheme involved approximately 30 false tax returns claiming refunds totaling \$102,913.

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CONN. MAN GUILTY FOR EVADING INCOME REPORTING

Joseph Romanello, 45, of Stamford, Conn., pleaded guilty to one count of illegally structuring cash withdrawals to evade reporting income on his federal tax returns for the years 2003 and 2004.

Federal law requires all financial institutions to file a Currency Transaction Report for currency transactions that exceed \$10,000. To evade the filing of a CTR, individuals will often structure their currency transactions so that no single transaction exceeds \$10,000. Even if the deposited funds are derived from legitimate means, financial transactions conducted in this manner are still in violation.

According to court records, Romanello earned income by providing masonry and landscaping services. Between approximately January 2003 and March 2005, Romanello structured cash transactions of approximately \$2 million by routinely withdrawing cash from various bank accounts he maintained in amounts at or slightly below \$10,000 to prevent the financial institutions from filing CTRs. For the years 2003 and 2004, Romanello did not file any federal income tax returns, and he failed to pay almost \$1 million in income taxes during those two years.

Romanello faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000.

IRS Agent Nailed on Tax Charges

An IRS revenue agent pleaded guilty to charges of filing false tax returns for himself and innocent relatives that claimed, among other things, bogus deductions for alimony and mortgage payments.

Albert Bront, 51, a former Santa Clarita, Calif., resident, pleaded guilty to one count of subscribing to a false return and two counts of assisting others in subscribing to false tax returns.

Bront specifically pleaded guilty to a count involving his own fraudulent 2005 tax return, but also admitted filing fraudulent tax returns for the tax years 2003 to 2007 that claimed excessive deductions and failed to report certain income. Bront also pleaded guilty to two counts involving fraudulent tax returns he filed without his relatives' knowledge, admitting that he stole large tax refunds that were the result of the fraudulent tax returns filed on behalf of the unknowing relatives.

In relation to his 2005 tax return, Bront falsely claimed approximately \$16,819 in mortgage interest. Bront also falsely claimed an approximately \$12,000 deduction for "alimony paid" and failed to report as income more than \$10,000 he received from the fraudulent activity.

Bront faces up to nine years in prison and has agreed to pay approximately \$127,116 in restitution.

Ariz. Treatment Center Owners Get Prison Term

The owners of a Sedona, Ariz., drug and alcohol rehabilitation center have been sentenced to prison following a trial in which they were convicted on one count of conspiracy to impede the IRS and four counts of tax evasion.

Dr. William Howard Steiniger, 65, received 42 months in prison. His wife Diana, 52, received eight months behind bars.

Together, the Steinigers operated Desert Canyon Treatment Center from 1998 to 2008. During a four-day trial, testimony showed that the Steinigers concealed income from the IRS by funelling money into sham entities they created. One of those sham entities was set up in the Central American nation of Belize.

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