

TAX RESOLUTION TIMES

READ ABOUT TAXPAYERS WITH IRS PROBLEMS & FIND OUT HOW TO SOLVE THEM



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

County Treasurer Steals \$38 Million – On Homes, Ranches and 20 Cars – Gets 10 Years in Jail! ...Page 1

Not So Smart Staffing Firm Owner Gets 97 Months in Jail for Diverting 941 Taxes! ...Page 1

Construction Worker Tries to Railroad the IRS...Page 2

Gaming Manager Steals \$24 Million from Tribal Casino and Evades Taxes – Gets 70 Months!...Page 2

Thank You!...Page 2

Dumb Political Hack Charged With Tax Evasion...Page 3

Double Trouble Tax Evaders...Page 3

Welcome Tanya...Page 3

Did You Know...Page 4

IRS Question Answered...Page 4

“It is said that our taxation system is a voluntary one. Do you remember when you volunteered?”

–Unknown

County Treasurer Steals \$38 Million – On Homes, Ranches and 20 Cars – Gets 10 Years in Jail!

Elizabeth Gutfahr, the former Santa Cruz County treasurer, pleaded guilty to embezzlement by a public official, money laundering, and tax evasion.

Gutfahr served as treasurer from 2012 through 2024 and carried out a 10-year fraud scheme where she embezzled and laundered roughly 38.7 million dollars in county funds, primarily out of school and fire district accounts.

She executed 187 wire transfers from county accounts to bank accounts she opened under the names of fake companies that performed no real business. To bypass required safeguards, she used the security token of a subordinate employee, which allowed her to initiate and approve the transfers herself. She then falsified accounting records, cash reconciliation



documents, and investment reports to hide the missing millions.

Gutfahr used the stolen money to purchase real estate, renovate her family ranch, pay expenses tied to her cattle business, and buy at least 20 vehicles. None of the illicit income was reported to the IRS.

She was sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay 38.7 million dollars in restitution to Santa Cruz County and 13.1 million dollars to the IRS.

Not So Smart Staffing Firm Owner Gets 97 Months in Jail for Diverting 941 Taxes!

The owner of a Dallas staffing firm, Heaven Diaz, was sentenced to 97 months in prison for failing to pay employment taxes.

Between 2015 and 2017, Diaz withheld more than three million dollars in payroll taxes from employees but never remitted the money to the IRS, despite repeated

warnings from her accountant and several employees.

She used the funds for personal expenses, including international travel, luxury goods, and \$10,000 monthly rent for a home in a prestigious Dallas neighborhood.

In addition to the prison sentence, she must pay \$799,033.47 in restitution.

Construction Worker Tries to Railroad The IRS

A Wyoming railroad worker, James Alexander, was found guilty of stealing government disability benefits and filing a false income tax return.

After an injury while working for BNSF Railway, Alexander applied for and received total and permanent disability benefits from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board. Because the program is for railroad employees unable to work in any regular job, Alexander was required to notify the agency if he earned income.

From 2016 through 2024, he worked in construction and failed to report the income. Records show that between January 2016 and August 2023 alone, he earned \$330,830 from a construction company.

He also filed tax returns that underreported his income, including the construction earnings.

He was sentenced to 12 months in prison and ordered to pay \$409,422.28 in restitution.

Gaming Manager Steals \$24 Million from Tribal Casino And Evades Taxes – Gets 70 Months!

Michael Houser was found guilty of a sweeping embezzlement and tax fraud scheme that he carried out between 2016 and 2024. As an accounts payable manager for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Operations Authority Board, Houser had access to the tribe's gaming funds—some of which were federal funds—and stole a total of \$24,907,436.07.

The Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises oversees multiple casino properties across eastern Oklahoma, including the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, which draws roughly 10,000 guests each day. Houser diverted tribal funds into personal casino accounts in Las Vegas, where

he traveled approximately once a month, gambling heavily and receiving extensive amenities and perks reserved for VIPs.

He also used the stolen money to purchase luxury goods, private school tuition, a 2024 Lexus, a 2022 Cadillac, a high-end boat, and investment and savings accounts. He made lavish purchases from casino stores, including at least one Rolex watch and Louis Vuitton merchandise.

Houser did not report the embezzled proceeds as income. In Tax Year 2022 alone, he failed to disclose \$7,851,027.28. The IRS estimated a tax loss of \$8,205,834.00.

Houser was sentenced to 70 months in prison for theft and 36 months for tax fraud, to be served concurrently. He must pay \$17,337,949.50 in restitution to the Muscogee Nation and \$8,205,834.00 to the IRS.



Thank You!

Thanks to YOU, the word is spreading. Thanks to my clients and friends who graciously referred me to their friends, clients and relatives last month! I enjoy building my business based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you.

I just couldn't do it without you!

Welcome Tanya!

We are so happy to announce that Tanya is our newest Enrolled Agent! We are so proud of her! Now here at Hall's on Post we have two enrolled agents to help service your needs. When facing IRS challenges, you need representation from the top tier of tax professionals—and that's exactly what you get with an Enrolled Agent. Of the approximately 1.2 million tax preparers holding PTINs nationwide, fewer than 60,000 have earned the prestigious Enrolled Agent credential. This means only about 5% of all tax professionals possess this elite designation awarded directly by the IRS itself. Unlike other tax preparers who can only prepare returns, Enrolled Agents have unlimited practice rights, allowing them to represent clients in any IRS matter, from audits to tax court proceedings. At Hall's on Post, Angelia Hall E.A. and now Tanya Butler E.A. brings this exclusive expertise to every client interaction. As two of fewer than 60,000 Enrolled Agents nationwide, they have passed rigorous federal examinations, maintains strict continuing education requirements, and holds the legal privilege protection similar to attorney-client confidentiality. This rare credential means you're not just getting a tax preparer—you're getting two of America's most qualified tax experts, someone who has earned the right to stand toe-to-toe with the IRS on your behalf. When your financial future is at stake, why settle for the other 95% when you can have representation from the elite 5%?

Dumb Political Hack Charged With Tax Evasion!

Katherine Buchanan, a former political campaign compliance consultant, was found guilty of embezzling campaign funds and committing tax evasion.

Buchanan spent more than 20 years working for political campaigns and political action committees, including those of Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, and often held the title of Campaign Treasurer.

Between 2020 and 2024, Buchanan used her access to campaign accounts to steal at least \$840,000 from the committees she worked for. She diverted campaign or PAC funds to pay her personal credit card bills, used official campaign credit cards for private purchases, and

transferred money directly into her personal bank accounts.

She used the stolen funds for a wide range of personal luxuries and expenses, including dining, landscaping services, clothing, a Peloton exercise bike, airline tickets to Italy, concert tickets, chartered yacht tours and legal fees.

In addition to the theft, Buchanan under-reported the income she received between 2017 and 2022, causing the IRS a loss of more than \$670,000.

She was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and three years of supervised release. Restitution is yet to be determined.



Double Trouble Tax Evaders

Stephen Hochberg pleaded guilty after being charged in a long-running scheme to evade federal taxes while receiving more than 1.6 million dollars in compensation and benefits.

Beginning in 2014, Hochberg and Charles Katz arranged for Hochberg to be paid off the books while serving as Director of Corporate Services at Katz's accounting firm and as Chief Operating Officer of Katz's real estate company. In total, Katz funneled at least \$1,668,487 in unreported income to Hochberg and avoided at least \$835,105 in taxes.

The scheme provided extensive personal perks to Hochberg, including rent-free housing for Hochberg's ex-wife, college tuition for his children, and personal expenses charged on corporate credit cards.

In 2008, Hochberg was convicted of eight counts of wire fraud and nine counts of securities fraud. He was sentenced to more than five years in prison and a restitution order of \$1,791,500. Hochberg lied about his income from Katz's firms to avoid paying restitution he still owed to victims of the earlier fraud case.

Hochberg and Katz both face extensive prison sentences and restitution.



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Did You Know?

Alabama taxes the sale of illegal drugs. The state requires sellers to have tax stamps on these sales. Those caught without stamps will face jail time for the sale of the drugs as well as prosecution for tax evasion.

I'd Like to Hear from You!

If you have an IRS issue or just want to refer a friend, relative or client, we'd love to hear from you. We can provide a no-obligation, confidential consultation to help you solve your IRS problems.

Hall's On Post

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Your IRS Questions Answered Here...

Question: *I own a small business and did not file or pay payroll taxes for the last few quarters. I may owe over \$100,000 in 941 taxes. What should I do?*

Answer: Owing 941 payroll taxes is very different than owing personal 1040 income taxes. Not only can the IRS padlock the doors to your business, but they can also come after you personally, levy your personal bank accounts, confiscate your receivables, and seize your income and real property. Scariest still is that it could turn into a criminal matter. Why? Because the money has already been deducted from your employee's payroll checks; so, it's not your money to begin with! The IRS views this as if you stole their money. Payroll tax delinquency is the IRS's number one enforcement priority.

Acting quickly by getting help NOW greatly improves your chances for a successful resolution. The longer you wait, the more you risk this turning into a criminal matter, where your options are very limited. The IRS has special programs for business owners who have fallen behind on their payroll tax obligations. We can assess your situation and figure out the best way to protect you, take over all dealings with the IRS, and negotiate a resolution. Don't let them take everything you've worked so hard for. Penalties and interest are compound daily, just like a credit card. Don't let this balloon out of control. Call us today so we can get you protected! There is a solution!

We at Hall's On Post are experts in IRS tax problem resolution and help taxpayers with their IRS problems every day. **There is a solution to EVERY problem. Call us at 404-754-9917 today for a FREE confidential consultation.**