

Tax Resolution Times

“Read About Taxpayers with IRS Problems & Find Out How to Solve Them”



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Accountant Gets 3 years in Prison For Failing to Pay Over \$1 Million in Payroll Taxes

The accountant for a company that makes luxury limousines and buses, Carrie Leigh Long, was sentenced for embezzling \$362,000 and failing to pay over more than one million dollars in payroll and personal taxes.

Long stole from the company 198 times between 2016 and 2019. She used a stock of pre-signed checks to pay herself unauthorized amounts and also forged checks made out to herself. She did not claim any of the stolen money on her tax returns, causing the IRS a loss of \$65,039.

Beginning in 2019, Long stopped paying payroll taxes, both the ones owed by her employer and the ones collected from employee salaries. She failed to pay \$902,226 in payroll taxes, which gave her a bigger pool of money to steal from.

Long was on probation while pursuing this scheme, for embezzling \$88,000 from a client of her previous employer. In that case her mother paid the victim back the \$88,000. Long used some of the newly embezzled funds to pay her mother back.

She was sentenced to three years and five months in prison without parole, and ordered to pay \$362,175 to her employer and \$1,071,802 to the IRS. The court also ordered Long to forfeit to the government \$362,175.

Stockbroker Invests in Himself Using Other People’s Money

Robert Cirillo, a former stockbroker, was sentenced to 78 months in prison for filing false tax returns, and running a securities fraud scheme that targeted low income Hispanic victims via false promises of high returns from construction loans. Cirillo never invested any of the money, and instead used it for personal credit card expenses, trips, a Jeep, and an Alfa Romeo.

From 2015 to 2017, Cirillo failed to report more than three million dollars in income on his tax returns, causing the IRS a loss of \$676,898.

In addition to the prison sentence, Cirillo was ordered to pay \$3,948,835 in restitution to his victims and \$676,898 to the IRS.

*“The taxpayer:
That’s someone who
works for the
government but
doesn’t have to
take a civil service
examination.”*

Ronald Reagan

Con Artist is Placed in a Different Kind of Box

Glen Zinszer was sentenced to 51 months in prison for committing wire fraud and filing false tax returns in connection with Brazzlebox, a company he founded and claimed was Facebook for business.

For years, Zinszer lied to investors about how well Brazzlebox was doing by inflating the company's user numbers, having employees create fake user accounts, creating false revenue generating partnerships, and forging a letter of intent to purchase Brazzlebox for millions of dollars.

From 2012 to 2016, Zinszer used the bulk of the money invested to pay for personal items, including mortgages on his homes, concert tickets and jewelry. From 2013 to 2016 he also underreported his income on his federal tax forms.

In addition to the prison sentence, Zinszer was ordered to pay \$3,049,933 to his victims, including the government, and forfeited \$2,763,811.

Namaste in Prison

The owners of the Yoga to the People chain have been arrested for failing to file tax returns from 2013 to 2020. Gregory Gumucio, Michael Anderson, and Haven Soliman started the donation-based yoga studio in Manhattan in 2006, and ultimately had 20 locations around the country.

Court records show that the studios generated more than 20 million dollars in income, but despite the company's success, they never filed a corporate tax return. The men hid the company's income by paying employees in cash, refusing to provide employees with tax documentation, not maintaining books and records, paying personal expenses from business accounts, and using nominees to disguise their connections to various entities. They were known to have "stacking parties" where they would get together to count the cash stacked in one of their apartments.

Gumucio has unreported income exceeding \$1.6 million and an estimated tax due of \$431,000; Anderson has unreported income exceeding \$2.1 million and an estimated tax due of \$603,000; Soliman has unreported income exceeding \$961,000 and an estimated tax due of \$196,000. They led a lifestyle that included foreign travel, NFL season tickets, and horse lodging.

They each face a maximum prison sentence of 30 years, plus restitution.

Scheming Bar Owner Ends Up Behind Bars

William Britt, a former Georgia city councilman, was sentenced to 33 months in prison for failing to report income from several bars he co-owned near university campuses.

As part of the scheme, each bar was nominally owned by an individual, but in reality, all the bars were owned by a group of partners who skimmed cash from the bars, distributed it amongst themselves based on their ownership percentages, and never reported any of the income on their tax returns.

To throw off the IRS, Britt had the nominee owners file false tax returns and gave erroneous information to his accountant. He underreported the bars' income and omitted cash distributions to the owners. By the time Britt's house was raided by the IRS he and his partners had been under investigation for more than a year.

In addition to the prison sentence, Britt was ordered to pay \$352,404.54 in restitution to the IRS. His partners are awaiting trial.

Lord Have Mercy **City Official Sentenced to 14 Years**

Former pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Atlanta, and City of Atlanta Director of Human Services, Mitzi Bickers, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for accepting approximately \$3 million in bribes, money laundering, and failing to disclose more than \$600,000 in income on her tax return.

Bickers sold critical information to two businessmen which enabled them to secure contracts with the city for emergency snow removal, sidewalk repair and maintenance, and bridge reconstruction, totaling more than 15 million dollars. In addition to charging for the information up front, Bickers also had the men inflate their invoices to the city so they could give her kickbacks once they were paid.

In 2011 Bickers reported \$58,896 in income on her tax return and received a refund of \$3,924. That same year she received \$600,000 in bribes and owed the IRS more than \$200,000. The proceeds from the fraud scheme enabled Bickers to lead a lavish lifestyle that included purchasing a luxury SUV, jet skis, and a lakefront home, all of which she has been ordered to forfeit.

In addition to the prison sentence Bickers has been ordered to pay \$2,955,106 in restitution to the City of Atlanta. She is currently appealing the court's decision.

Did You Know?

In 2005, Arkansas began charging a \$6 tax on tattoos and body piercings. Electrolysis treatments are also taxed under this law, so going hairless in Arkansas will cost you extra.

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.

Call: (910) 796-0099

Your IRS Questions Answered Here...

Question: *The IRS is hounding me for \$63,000 and won't leave me alone, so I've finally decided to seek help from a Tax Professional who specializes in IRS problems. I want to start getting my paperwork together for the appointment; what will I need to bring with me?*

Answer: It's very important to have certain documentation with you for the initial interview. Your tax resolution specialist will need this info to protect your income and assets and to determine the best path forward to resolve your tax issues once and for all. The items to bring include:

- The most recent IRS/State tax notices and collection notices you've received.
- The latest filed income (1040) tax return, if you have one.
- A monthly household cash flow budget (current income and expenses)
- At recent paystub with YTD information including withholdings and other payroll deductions;
- If you are self-employed, an independent contractor, or small business owner, prepare a "rough draft" current profit and loss statement. If this is not possible, just bring your Schedule C from your most recently filed 1040 if you have one.
- A list of any quarterly estimated tax payments made, if any, for the current year

The information above will determine which IRS debt settlement program is best suited for you, including settling with the IRS for a fraction of what you owe, if you qualify.

We at Century Accounting & Tax Services are experts at navigating the IRS maze and will customize a resolution plan to fit your individual needs to help you permanently solve your IRS Problems. **Call us today at (910) 796-0099.**