

# Tax Resolution Times

*"Read About Taxpayers with IRS Problems & Find Out How to Solve Them"*



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## Intoxication

*Euphoria at getting  
a tax refund which  
lasts until you realize  
it was your money in  
the first place.*

## Healthcare Businessman Prescribes Himself a Yacht and Maserati

Richard Rief, a St. Louis businessman, was indicted on 14 counts of failure to collect and pay over employment taxes and two counts of failure to file or pay tax.

Rief owned and operated Med Plus Staffing, a healthcare staffing business, and Rief Healthcare, a hospice care company. He reported employment taxes due to the IRS, but failed to pay them, except when necessary to convince the IRS to let him set up an installment agreement. Once the agreement was in place he never made another payment. In total, Rief failed to pay over \$522,000 in employment taxes he collected from his employees' paychecks.

In 2015 and 2016, Rief also failed to pay individual taxes due of approximately \$107,332. During this time he led a lavish lifestyle and spent money on luxury items including a 50 foot yacht, a Maserati and a hangar for his private plane.

In addition to restitution to the IRS, Rief faces five years in prison for failing to pay over the employment taxes and one year in prison for failure to file each tax return.

## Slippery Slope for Petroleum Field Supervisor Caught in Hot Oil

David West, a 30-year employee of Petco Petroleum in Illinois, stole over \$400,000 from the oil and gas company between 2013 and 2017. West formed a shell company, Flash Electric Services, through which he submitted invoices totaling \$129,038 to Petco for services that were never rendered. He also stole oil from the company that he later sold to a reclaimer for \$266,802, and even charged his employer \$5,306 for trucks he hired to transport their own stolen oil.

West faces up to 20 years in prison and must pay restitution of \$400,000.

## Embezzling Comptroller Gets Shipped to Prison

Between 2007 and 2019 the comptroller for Gulf-Dan Shipping, Deepak Jagtani, embezzled more than \$7,000,000 dollars from the company.

Jagtani controlled payroll for Gulf-Dan and used his access to pay himself excessive salaries and benefits.

He also admitted to filing false tax returns from 2014 to 2017. He reported business losses from a fake catering business he claimed he and his wife owned in order to offset his income, and avoided paying \$1,232,267 in federal income taxes.

The wire fraud charges earned Jagtani a 63 month prison sentence, and the charge for filing false tax returns resulted in a 36 month sentence. Both sentences will be served concurrently. Jagtani was also ordered to pay \$7,000,000 in restitution to Gulf-Dan Shipping and \$1,232,267 to the IRS.

## Multi-Level Marketer Commits Multi-Levels of Fraud

Theresa Gregory, of Ohio, has been sentenced to 36 months in prison, and her daughter, Tera Gore, has been sentenced to six months in prison for evading the assessment and payment of taxes.

Between 2008 and 2017 Gregory earned, \$17,498,680 as a distributor for multi-level marketing companies, but failed to file any tax returns. Gore was instrumental in helping her mother hide her income by transferring the bulk of it into accounts in her name, while her mother continued to have access to the funds. Gregory led an extravagant lifestyle and shopped at high end retailers such as Gucci, Jimmy Choo and Saks Fifth Avenue. She spent funds on cruises, horse dealers, quarter horse events, homes and luxury cars.

Gore had access to her mother's money and used the funds on personal expenses for herself and her family, including tutors and horse trainers.

Gregory and Gore were ordered to pay 3.3 million dollars in restitution, and Gore was ordered to pay another \$20,000 in fines.

## 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!

Please don't forget to leave a review on Google to help us build a better business.



## **The Ace at the Bank Caused Schemer's Fall From Grace**

Taressa Hightower, of Georgia, pleaded guilty to two counts of filing false tax returns in connection with bogus charitable organizations.

Between 2010 and 2015 Hightower received more than \$650,000 from a bank in Boston for two non-profit organizations that claimed to serve underprivileged children in Atlanta, Georgia. The money Hightower received were the proceeds of an embezzlement scheme perpetrated by Palestine Ace, an employee of the bank, who was married to Jonathan Ace, a relative of Hightower's. In exchange for the 'donations' Hightower agreed to return 25% of the money to the Aces as a secret kickback.

None of the funds were used for charitable purposes. Hightower spent the money on personal expenses and for 2013 and 2014 filed false personal and business tax returns. She claimed significant amounts of non-existent and inflated business expenses in order to lower her personal tax liability.

Palestine and Jonathan Ace were convicted of embezzlement in 2018 and sentenced to one and two years in prison, respectively.

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

## **Nike Employee Just Did It and Then Got Caught**

Errol Andam, a former Nike marketing manager, has been charged with wire fraud, money laundering and making false statements on a tax return.

Andam managed the design, build-out and operation of pop-up retail venues for Nike, and in 2016 recruited a childhood friend to establish a company to design and build the venues for the company. Andam made sure his friend's company was consistently awarded the contracts for these jobs, then proceeded to control his friend's company's financial operations, including invoices to Nike.

Andam created an alter ego, "Frank Little" to handle the Nike account and his friend's Square credit card processing account, where Nike funds were deposited. He then had the funds from Square diverted to his own LLC.

As he got bolder, Andam began having sales at the pop-ups diverted directly into his own company. From 2016 to 2018 Andam diverted and embezzled almost 1.4 million dollars

He faces a maximum prison sentence of 30 years and fines of up to 4.5 million dollars.

## ***Are You My Next Client of the Month?***

Every month I choose a very special *Client of the Month*. It's my way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks!" to those who support me and my business with referrals, word of mouth and repeat business.

This month's *Client of the month* is Sandra Smalls. Thank you for trusting Ultimate Tax Relief with your Tax's.

You might be my next *Client of the Month* too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming month.

## Did You Know?

Ever wonder why the band ABBA wore those outrageous outfits on stage? Turns out, per the Swedish tax code, the outfits were only tax deductible as a business expense if they were too ridiculous to wear off stage.

## IT'S TAX SEASON! Ultimate Tax Relief has got you covered



## 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.

Contact us at:  
P: 718-367-6111  
F: 718-584-6654

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## Enter Our Trivia Contest for a Chance to Win a \$250 Transferrable Gift Certificate!

### Take the Trivia Challenge to win!

Each month, I'll give you a new trivia question. The first **THREE** people who call my office with the correct answer win a free \$250 reduction on any IRS service I provide. Your prize is also transferrable, so use it for yourself, or give it to a family member or friend. Take your best guess and call me at (718) 367 - 6111.

This month's question is....

**NASA's rover Perseverance landed on Mars last month after traveling how many miles?**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a) 293 million miles | c) 851 million miles |
| b) 115 million miles | d) 365 million miles |

Call us today (718) -367-6111!

## Your IRS Questions Answered Here...

**Question:** *I owe the IRS \$55,000 plus penalties and interest in back taxes but I think I can handle this myself. Is there any reason why I shouldn't deal with the IRS on my own?*

**Answer:** One of the worst things you can do is talk to the IRS directly without proper representation. You would not go to court without a lawyer, would you? We do not recommend facing the IRS alone either as you will get crushed. When it comes to the IRS you are guilty until proven innocent. The IRS is not on your side and their primary goal is to aggressively collect by whatever means possible when they think you have their money.

However, one of the collection alternatives available to you is the Offer in Compromise Program. An Offer in Compromise ("OIC") is a formal binding agreement between you and the IRS that permanently settles your tax liability for less than the full amount owed. Many times, for a lot less than what is owed. It is a formulaic driven process where the IRS looks at your current financial situation to determine what you can afford to pay.

(As CPA's or Enrolled Agent's or attorney's) who are also tax resolution specialists we can evaluate your case first to see if you qualify for this program. We know how to navigate the IRS maze because we do this for a living, day-in, day-out. We know the "ins" and "outs" and know how to deal with the IRS so your rights, and your income and assets, are protected. We are experts in obtaining the lowest possible settlement allowed by law, if you are qualified, in the most expeditious fashion possible.

Call us today to see if you qualify for an offer in compromise or one of the other many alternatives the IRS offers. We at Ultimate Tax Relief 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 today! 718-367-6111 for a FREE confidential consultation.

Visit us today: [www.ultimatetax-relief.net](http://www.ultimatetax-relief.net)