# Unlocking the Secrets of Tax Court

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# **Handouts**

PDF File consisting of the following:

1-PDF of Slide Deck

2-Simple Tax Court Tutorial for Tommy & Tammy Taxpayer

# **Tax Court Petitions**

Excerpt from the Tax Court Petition shows the various situations that Tax Court has jurisdiction over. We are going to discuss:

**Notice of Deficiency (NOD)** 

**Notice of Determination** 

PETITION

- 1. Please check the appropriate box(es) to show which IRS NOTICE(s) you dispute:
- ☐ Notice of Deficiency

- ☐ Determination of Worker Classification\*
- ☐ Notice of Determination Concerning Collection Action
- Notice of Determination Concerning Your Request for Relief From Joint and Several Liability\*
- ☐ Notice of Final Determination Not to Abate Interest\*

\*Please see the Court's Web site, <a href="www.ustaxcourt.gov">www.ustaxcourt.gov</a>, or information booklet for additional information if (1) you filed a claim for interest abatement or requested relief from joint and several liability, and the IRS has not made a determination, or (2) the petition involves a worker classification case.

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Taxpayers can petition Tax Court Pro Se (on behalf of themselves)

or

They can request assistance

**Low Income Tax Clinic** 

**Tax Court Lawyer** 

**Circular 230 Practitioner USTCP** 

# Why Petition US Tax Court??

- Remedy a "BAD" Audit
- Request Abatement of Accuracy-Related Penalties
- Properly resolve CP2000
- Collection Issues

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# Form 843 Appeal (NOT US Tax Court)

# **Proper Venue:**

**U.S. District Court** 

**U.S. Court of Federal Claims** 

| Form   | 843   Cla  | nim for Refund and R  | Request for Abate            | ement                  | 0.45.11.45.45.45.4     |  |
|--------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Depart | sugust 2011)<br>ment of the Treasury<br>  Revenue Service  | ► See separate  | instructions.                |                        | OMB No. 1545-0024      |  |
|        | Form 843 if your claim or reques<br>a refund of one of the taxes<br>withholding) or a fee, showr   | (other than income taxes or an  | employer's claim for FICA    | tax, RRTA tax, or i    | ncome tax              |  |
| Do n   | ot use Form 843 if your claim or   | terest, penalties, or additions to<br>r request involves:<br>taxes or an employer's claim fo  |                              |                        | ng (use the            |  |
| (t     | a refund of excise taxes bas   | sed on the nontaxable use or sa<br>axes reported on Form(s) 11-C,   |                              |                        |                        |  |
| Name   |  | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,   |                              | Your social secur      | ity number             |  |
| Addre  | ess (number, street, and room or sui   | te no.)   |                              | Spouse's social s      | ecurity number         |  |
| City o | r town, state, and ZIP code  |   |                              | Employer identific     | eation number (EIN)    |  |
| Name   | and address shown on return if dif   | ferent from above   |                              | Daytime telephon       | e number               |  |
| 1      | Period. Prepare a separate From  | orm 843 for each tax period or to   | fee year.                    | 2 Amount to I          | pe refunded or abated: |  |
| 3      | Type of tax or fee. Indicate t<br>is related.  | he type of tax or fee to be refu  |                              | _                      | _                      |  |
| -      |  | Estate  | Excise                       | ☐ Income               | ☐ Fee                  |  |
| 4      | Type of penalty. If the claim based (see instructions). IRC  |   | enter the Internal Revenu    | ue Code section on     | which the penalty is   |  |
|        | Type of penalty. If the claim  | section:  |                              |                        |                        |  |
|        | Type of penalty. If the claim based (see instructions). IRC Interest, penalties, and addinone apply, go to line 6.)  interest was assessed as  A penalty or addition to ta | section:  itions to tax. Check the box th a result of IRS errors or delays. x was the result of erroneous were reason allowed under the | at indicates your reason for | or the request for ref | und or abatement. (If  |  |

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# Form 843 Claim For Refund and Request for Abatement

# **Commonly used for:**

- Request for First Time Abatement
- Request for refund of payments made after CSED (Collection Statute Expiration Date) has expired.
   Generally invoking §6511 to reclaim payments made in the last 2 years.

What happens when the IRS send Letter 1277 denying the abatement request ?

# Form 843 Claim For Refund and Request for Abatement

What happens when the IRS send Letter 1277 denying the abatement request?

The IRS sends Letter 1277 to inform you that the Appeals Officer denied the abatement request and to advise you of your right to further appeal options.

- You can <u>PAY THE PENALTY</u>
- File Form 843, Claim for Refund and Request for Abatement
- When the claim is denied, file an appeal with the U.S. District Court or U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

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# **NOD Required to Petition Tax Court**

First Part of our discussion will focus on:

# **Notice of Deficiency**

Received as a result of:

- CP2000 Notice
- Correspondence Audit
- Office Audit

# **Tax Court Take-Aways**

# Taxpayer can Dispute Tax Liability <u>BEFORE</u> it is PAID.

Taxpayers can petition Tax Court **Pro Se** (on behalf of themselves)

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# **Example 1 Handout**

Self-Employed Insurance salesman uses TurboTax successfully for years.

Has a strong 2016 - Goes to a CPA to make sure it is done right.

Fills out the Intake Document and says he has \$109K SE income (Includes all 14 of his 1099-MISC for \$134K).

CPA uses the income shown on his Intake Document and files the return short the \$25K of Self-Employment.

Taxpayer receives a CP2000 Letter, immediately pays the \$10K balance due.

Taxpayer writes the IRS a compelling letter requesting \$2K Penalty Abatement.

# IRS replies – NO!

# **Example 1 (Conclusion)**

Taxpayer calls his uncle who is a retired EA.

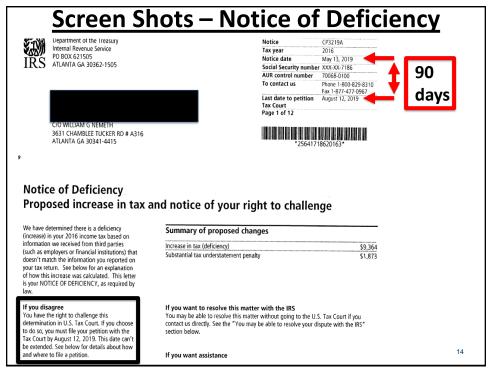
I get pulled into the loop and advise the taxpayer to file a petition Pro Se with the Tax Court .

Taxpayer timely files Tax Court Petition, requesting penalty abatement. States that he agrees with the additional tax and has **PAID it.** 

Tax Court receives petition – issues Docket Number.

IRS Chief Counsel attorney calls taxpayer, relates that Tax Court AGREES to abate the \$2K accuracy-related penalty immediately. Sends out Decision Docs for Signature.

# \$60 Investment yield abatement of 20% of the amount due - \$2K (GOOD RETURN ON INVESTMENT)



# **NOD Required to Petition Tax Court**

Taxpayer must receive a

# **Notice of Deficiency**

BEFORE a petition to Tax Court can be filed.

The NOD - often called the **Ticket to Tax Court**;

NOD is often called the **90-day letter** since the taxpayer generally has 90 days to respond.

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# Tax Court Petition – 2 Questions

5. Explain why you disagree with the IRS determination in this case (please list each point separately):

CP2000 NOTICE - TAXPAYERS AGREE WITH THE ADDITIONAL TAX AND HAVE PAID THE TAX IN FULL.

TAXPAYERS ARE REQUESTING ABATEMENT OF THE \$1,873 ACCURACY-RELATED PENALTY.

T.C. FORM 2 (REV. 11/18)

6. State the facts upon which you rely (please list each point separately):

TAXPAYER IS SELF-EMPLOYED & HAS BEEN PREPARING HIS OWN RETURN FOR MANY YEARS. HOWEVER,
TAXPAYER WANTED TO MAKE SURE HIS 2016 RETURN WAS PREPARED CORRECTLY AND ENGAGED A CPA
TO PREPARE 2016 - THE CPA FAILED TO ENTER ALL THE INCOME DOCUMENTS PROVIDED.

THE IRS COMPUTER-MATCHING PROGRAM GENERATED THE CP2000 NOTICE

TAXPAYERS EXERCISED DUE DILIGENCE IN SELECTING A LICENSED TAX PROFESSIONAL TO PREPARE
THEIR 2016 RETURN. THEY SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED FOR ERRORS MADE BY THE TAX PROFESSIONAL

# SSLH Rule Saturday, Sunday, Legal Holiday

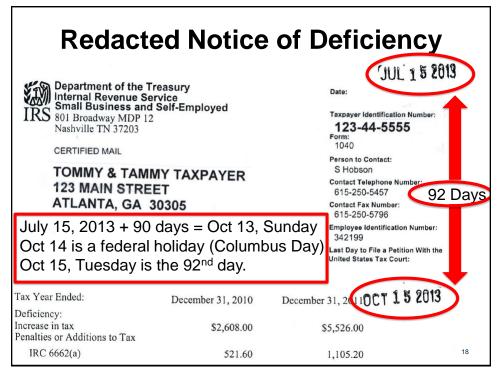
Taxpayers have 90-ish days from the beginning date on the Notice of Deficiency to petition Tax Court.

The time period is counted from the initial date plus 90 days using the **SSLH Rule**.

In this example, the 90<sup>th</sup> day falls on a Sunday and the Monday is a Federal Holiday, Columbus Day. Thus, the last day to petition Tax Court is Oct 15, the 92<sup>nd</sup> day.

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# When is a Notice of Deficiency Issued?

NOD is issued when there is a **dispute** over the amount of a proposed tax Assessment.

**Typical** triggers for a Stat Notice (Statutory Notice of Deficiency):

- CP2000 Unagreed
- Audit Unagreed

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# Tax Court established under Article I of the Constitution

The United States Tax Court is a Federal Trial Court of record established by Congress under Article I of the <u>U.S. Constitution</u>. When the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has determined a tax deficiency, the taxpayer may dispute the deficiency in the Tax Court <u>before</u> paying any disputed amount.

Dispute Tax Liability **BEFORE** it is PAID.

# **Origins of Tax Court**

The court has its origins in the Bureau of Tax Appeals, an executive agency established in **1924** (43 Stat. 336, 338) to deal with the growing number and complexity of disputes over tax liability following the adoption and expansion of the federal income and profits taxes.

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# **Taxpayer Files A Tax Court Petition**

The rule of the Tax Court is that the taxpayer sues the "Commissioner of Internal Revenue" with the taxpayer as "petitioner" and the Commissioner as "respondent".

\$60 Filing Fee

Taxpayer = Petitioner

**Commissioner = Respondent** 

# Who Can Assist a Taxpayer in Preparing a Petition?

The traditional answer seems to depend on whom you ask.

Since all the information necessary to file a Tax Court Petition is available with the exception of two questions, some will liken it to assisting a taxpayer to prepare a petition much like tax professionals prepare a tax return and transcribe the taxpayer's information to the form.

Answers range from no one (Taxpayer Pro Se) to anyone to only a lawyer or USTCP EA or USTCP CPA.

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# Who Can Assist a Taxpayer in Preparing a Petition?

According to Tax Court Rule 33 (excerpt on the following slide), the signer of the petition has read the petition, understands it and believes it is well-grounded in fact.

Tax Court Rule 33 does NOT specify the preparer of the petition.

# Tax Court Rule 33 Signing of Pleading

33 (b) Effect of Signature: The signature of counsel or a party constitutes a certificate by the signer that the signer has read the pleading; that, to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law; and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

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# **Best Practices**

Advise taxpayers to have an attorney or USTCP Circular 230 assist or coach them in the preparation of their Pro Se Tax Court Petition.

Consider LITC (Low Income Tax Clinic)

Advise taxpayers to have a Circular 230 practitioner who is familiar with tax court proceeding represent them.

# Taxpayer Received Notice of Deficiency – Now What?

The Notice actually has some good advice as the excerpt below illustrates:

### If you wish to challenge this determination

If you want to challenge this determination in court before making any payment, you have 90 days from the date of this letter (150 days if this letter is addressed to you outside of the United States) to file a petition with the United States Tax Court to reconsider the deficiency.

You can get a copy of the rules for filing a petition and a petition form by writing to the following address:

United States Tax Court 400 Second Street, NW Washington, DC 20217

- The Tax Court has a simplified procedure for small tax cases when the dispute for each tax year is \$50,000 or less.
- If you use this simplified procedure, you cannot challenge the Tax Court's decision. You can get
  information on the simplified procedure for small cases from the Tax Court by writing to the court at the
  address above or from the court's internet site at <a href="https://www.ustaxcourt.gov">www.ustaxcourt.gov</a>.
- If you file a petition for multiple tax years and the dispute for any one or more of the tax years exceeds \$50,000, this simplified procedure is not available to you.

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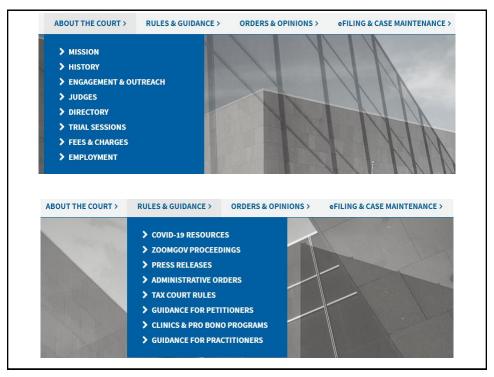
# **U.S. Tax Court Web Site**

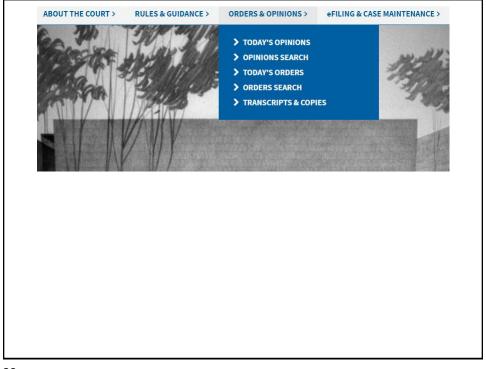
Google **US Tax Court** to get to their Web Site

Or go to: <a href="https://www.ustaxcourt.gov">https://www.ustaxcourt.gov</a>

**New & Improved Web Site** 









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# **U.S. Tax Court Rules PDF**

This 321 Page PDF is available for reference.

Rules of Practice & Procedure





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# Google File a Pro Se Tax Court Petition

Information for Persons Representing Themselves Before the U.S. Tax Court

39 Page PDF August 2010



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# **Preparing a Petition**

The information is readily available:

- Taxpayer(s) Name and Address
- Information from the Notice of Deficiency
  - Date of Notice of Deficiency
  - Office issuing the Notice of Deficiency
  - Tax Years
  - Requested Place of Trial
- Small or Regular Case
- 2 Questions

# **Preparing a Petition**

Tax Court Petition has a checkbox (Small or regular Case) & two questions which must be answered:

If small or regular Case is NOT checked, the case is automatically **regular** case.

### The Two Questions:

- 5. Explain why you disagree with the IRS determination in this case:
- 6. State the facts upon which you rely:

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# **Preparing a Pro Se Petition**

<u>Tax Court Petition Forms are available at:</u>
https://www.ustaxcourt.gov/forms/Petition\_Kit.pdf

Complete and mail Entire Package to:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT 400 SECOND STREET N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20217

Must BE <u>Timely Mailed</u>

Has to be MAILED (Postmarked) by the last day to file petition with the US Tax Court (usually 90 days from the date on NOD).

# **Preparing a Petition**

### **Petition Package Includes:**

Petition (T.C. Form 2) - 2 pages Name, Address, Issuing Office, Tax Year(s), etc.

Statement of Taxpayer Identification Number (T.C. Form 4)

The Request for Place of Trial (T.C. Form 5)

\$60 filing Fee – Personal Check, Money Order, etc. made out to: Clerk, United States Tax Court

A Copy of the ENTIRE <u>REDACTED</u> Notice of Deficiency (90-Day Letter) the IRS sent the Taxpayer.

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# What Should I say in my Petition?

From the Tax Court Web Site:

Line 5 of the petition asks you to tell the Court why you disagree with the IRS determination in your case. You should list clearly and concisely the errors you believe the IRS made in the notice of deficiency. List each issue separately.

## **Keep it simple:**

IRS auditor did not allow ordinary and necessary business expenses.

# What Should I say in my Petition?

From the Tax Court Web Site:

On Line 6 of the petition you should briefly state the facts on which you rely to support your position.

### 6. State the facts upon which you rely:

### **Keep it simple:**

<u>Taxpayer has compelling documentation to prove</u> <u>ordinary and necessary business expenses.</u>

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# **Small Case or Regular Case**

Tax Court Petition has a selection Checkbox (small or regular case) Strategy (always leave blank?)

4. SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

If you want your case conducted under small tax case procedures, check here: 

(CHECK If you want your case conducted under regular tax case procedures, check here: 

NOTE: A decision in a "small tax case" cannot be appealed to a Court of Appeals by the taxpayer or the IRS If you do not check either box, the Court will file your case as a regular tax case.

Regular case allows for more than \$50K for any year.

Regular case can be appealed.

Regular case generally attracts a more

Regular case generally attracts a more experienced Appeals Officer.

# Taxpayers can file a Tax Court Petition Pro Se

Taxpayers can file a Tax Court Petition and represent themselves before the court.

The system is very accommodating to Pro Se Petitioners and offers a significant amount of information on the Low Income Tax Clinics available.

Tax Court judges are extremely accommodating to Pro Se Taxpayers.

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# **Taxpayers files a Tax Court Petition**

# **Tax Court response:**

Tax Court issues a **Docket Number** (Think Tracking Number)

Tax Court response agrees with the facts: Name, Tax Year, Etc. Items 1 through 4

Tax Court DENIES everything else (automatically) – See Typical Response on following page.

# **Typical Tax Court Response**

ANSWER

RESPONDENT, in answer to the petition filed in the aboveentitled case, admits and denies as follows:

- 1. Admits.
- 2. Admits.
- 3. Admits.

have been made.

- 4. Neither admits nor denies, as no allegations of fact  $\frac{1}{2}$
- 5. Denies for lack of sufficient knowledge or information.
- 6. Denies for lack of sufficient knowledge or information.
- Denies generally each and every allegation of the petition not herein specifically admitted, qualified or denied.

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# **Typical Tax Court Response**

ANSWER

RESPONDENT, in answer to the petition filed in the aboveentitled case, admits and denies as follows:

- 1. Admits. Disputing Notice of Deficiency
- 2. Admits. Date of Notice & IRS Office Issuing the notice
- 3. Admits. Tax Period
- 4. Neither admits nor denies, as no allegations of fact

have been made. Small Tax Case or Regular Tax Case Procedures

- 5. Denies for lack of sufficient knowledge or information. Explain why you disagree with the IRS
- 6. Denies for lack of sufficient knowledge or information. State the facts on which you rely
- Denies generally each and every allegation of the petition not herein specifically admitted, qualified or denied.

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# **Tax Court Response (Continued)**

Tax Court issues a **Docket Number** (Think Tracking Number)

# **Examples of Docket Numbers**

00122-19W Whistle Blower Case

00123-19 Regular Case 00124-19S Small Case

00125-19L Liability Case

19 - Year Docket Number was assigned.

Collection Clock is **STOPPED** after filing.

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# Taxpayers can file a Tax Court Petition Pro Se

Circular 230 Practitioners can represent **Pro Se** Taxpayers at Appeals and Discussions / Negotiations with Chief Counsel Attorneys. They CANNOT represent the taxpayer in Tax Court (in the Court Room before the judge).

Circular 230 Practitioners must hold <u>USTCP</u> credentials to represent the taxpayer <u>in Tax</u> <u>Court standing in front of the judge.</u>

# Taxpayer Must Show Up At Calendar Call or their case is dismissed

### **True Story:**

EA is working with taxpayer who filed a Pro Se Petition.

Taxpayer is NOT in court room when his case is called. Clever EA goes to the podium and addresses the judge.

Judge asks him if he has standing before the court (USTCP) – EA answers he recently took the Tax Court Exam. Judge replies: "That is NOT how it works." Judge advised the EA to get his taxpayer to come in later that day so that his case can proceed!!

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# Tax Court is Open to the Public Via the Internet □ Today ↑ ↓ June 2021 ↓ Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday May 30 31 Jun 1 2 3 3 4 5 1030 AM Chicago, II. C 15M Washington, DC 1 10 AM Knowells, TN (H 10 AM Knowells, TN (H 10 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Houston, TX (Sr 11 AM Los Angeles, CA 11 AM Los Ange

| UNITED STATES TAX COURT TRIAL SESSIONS - FALL 2021 TERM 4/9 |          |         |  |          |       |         |         |          | 4/9/2 |         |       |         |         |         |
|---|----------|---------|--|----------|-------|---------|---------|----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Week of   | 9/13     | 9/20    | 9/27   | 10/4     | 10/11 | 10/18   | 10/25   | 11/1     | 11/8  | 11/15   | 11/22 | 11/29   | 12/6    | 12/13   |
| Atlanta   |          | 1       | Small  |          |       | Regular |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Baltimore   |          | Small   |  |          |       |         |         | Regular  |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Boston  | Regular  |         |  |          |       | Small   |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Chicago   |          |         |  |          |       | Regular |         | 1        |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Cleveland   |          | 1       |  | Small    |       |         |         |          |       |         |       | Regular |         |         |
| Columbia  |          |         |  | Hybrid   |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Dallas  |          |         |  |          |       | Regular |         |          |       | Regular |       |         |         |         |
| Denver  |          | 1       | Small  |          |       |         | Regular |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Detroit   |          | 1       |  | Regular  |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Fresno  | 1        |         |  |          |       |         |         | 1        |       |         |       |         | Small   |         |
| Hartford  |          |         | Hybrid   |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Houston   |          |         |  |          |       |         |         | Regular  |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Jacksonville  |          |         |  |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         | Regular |
| Kansas City   |          | Regular |  |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Las Vegas   |          |         |  |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         | Regular |         |
| Los Angeles   | Small    |         |  | Regular  |       |         | Small   |          |       | Regular |       | Regular |         |         |
| Miami   |          |         |  |          |       |         |         | Regular  |       |         |       | Small   |         |         |
| Milwaukee   |          |         |  |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         | Hybrid  |
| New Orleans   |          |         |  |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         | Regular |         |
| New York  | Regular  |         |  |          |       |         |         | Small    |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Philadelphia  |          |         |  |          |       |         | Regular |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Phoenix   |          | 1       |  |          |       |         |         |          |       | Regular |       |         |         | Small   |
| Richmond  |          | Regular |  |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| San Antonio   | <b>T</b> |         | Regular  |          |       |         | 1       | 1        |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| San Diego   | t -      | Regular |  |          |       |         |         | t -      |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| San Francisco   | 1        |         |  |          |       |         | Regular |          |       |         |       | Regular |         |         |
| St. Louis   | Hybrid   |         | <b>T</b>   |          |       |         |         |          |       |         |       |         |         |         |
| Tampa   |          |         | <del>                                     </del> | <u> </u> |       |         |         | <u> </u> |       | Small   |       |         |         |         |
| Washington, DO  |          | t       | t  | <b>†</b> |       |         | 1       | t        |       |         |       | l -     |         | Regular |

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# **Protect SSN or EIN**

**T.C. Form 4**, Statement of Taxpayer Identification Number is the **ONLY** document in the tax court petition which has the taxpayer's Identification Number.

Any other notices included with the petition should be **REDACTED**.

Since the Notice of Deficiency is part of the tax court petition, the taxpayer's TIN should be **REDACTED** in the NOD and any other documents submitted.

# One Shot at Appeals

### Scenario 1:

Bad audit – Taxpayer appealed audit and did not get substantial relief.

Taxpayer petitioned Tax Court Pro Se and will negotiate directly with Chief Counsel Attorneys.

### Scenario 2:

**Bad audit – Taxpayer skipped Appeals and petitioned Tax Court.** 

Chief Counsel Attorneys will refer to Appeals for resolution. If not resolved, case goes back to Chief Counsel Attorneys.

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# **Docket Inquiry**

# **Docket Inquiry**

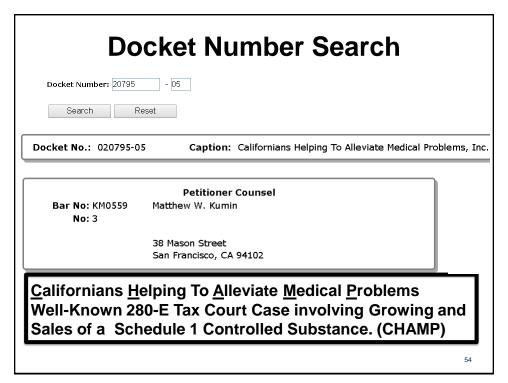
DOCKET RECORDS SEARCH BY:

- >> Docket Number
- >> Individual Party Name
- >> Corporate Name Keyword

**Docket Inquiry Help** 

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| Docket Inquiry<br>Individual Party Name Search |                                  |             |         |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Docket Inquiry - Individual Party Na           | Last Name:  TAXPAYER  State:  GA | First Name: | Middle: |  |  |  |  |  |
| No Results.                                    |                                  |             | 53      |  |  |  |  |  |



# **OVERVIEW**

Taxpayer files Tax Court Petition Pro Se.

Enrolled Agent or CPA under POA can represent the taxpayer at Appeals and can negotiate with Chief Counsel Attorneys.

Appeals has 4 months to settle the case.

It is almost automatic that Appeals will abate Accuracy-Related Penalties - § 6662

Over 90% of Tax Court Cases are SETTLED prior to Tax Court.

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# Case is Calendared

(Court Date is set)

Case NOT settled at Appeals or

Case NOT settled with Chief Counsel

This is a good thing – pressure to settle increases.

# Case is Calendared

<u>Pro Se</u> Taxpayer will appear in Tax Court, stand at the Podium, state their name and briefly review their case with the judge.

Judge will ask them to talk with Chief Counsel attorneys at the morning break, or talk with Low Income Tax Clinic volunteers and see if they can reach an agreement. Circular 230 Practitioners can participate in this negotiation.

### NOTE:

If the Taxpayer does not appear in Tax Court, they lose.

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# Case is Calendared

If a Pro Se Tax Court case gets this far, it is usually settled by quick negotiation.

After the break, taxpayer is called back to the podium along with Chief Counsel Attorney:

### Two Outcomes:

- Reached Settlement Decision documents will be drawn up and signed.
- Did NOT reach Settlement Goes to Trial.

# **Discussion**

# Takeaways:

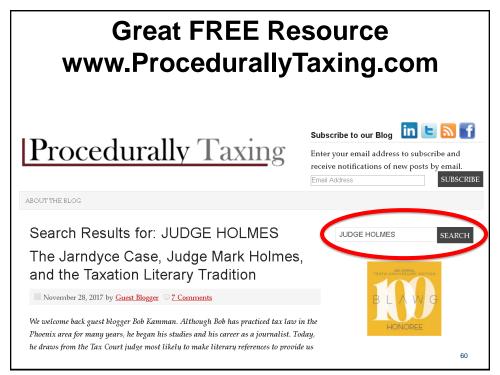
Taxpayer gets **ONE SHOT** at Appeals.

After Taxpayer responds to a Notice of Deficiency with a Tax Court Petition, the filing status of the return cannot be changed (Single to Head-of-Household, MFS to MFJ, etc.) Collection clock is **STOPPED**.

See the Court Tutorial handout for a complete example of a Pro Se Tax Court Petition.

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# **Tax Court Petition – Abate Penalties**

When a CP2000 Notice of Deficiency is issued, best practices suggest the taxpayer should petition Tax Court Pro Se to request abatement of the 20% Accuracy-Related Penalty.

\$60 Investment yield abatement of 20% of the tax due (typically several thousand dollars)

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# Here is a NOVEL Idea

**Unagreed Audit - Final Meeting** 

We know we can generally get accuracy-related penalties abated at Tax Court.

Request removal of accuracy-related Penalties at the end of the audit.

See the script on the following page.

# Penalty REMOVAL – At Audit Script

"Taxpayer cannot provide compelling documentation to prove more of their ordinary and necessary expenses.

I will agree and sign the audit agreement today <u>IF</u> you remove the Accuracy-Related Penalties. If you do not, Taxpayer will petition Tax Court and get them removed in that venue.

Let's save everyone time and money and remove the penalties today.

I will provide you with 4 different tax court cases where the accuracy-related penalties were removed.

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# TAX COURT PETITION MORE EFFECTIVE THAN AUDIT RECON

# **Discussion**

Tax Court - "RELAXED" set of rules

<u>Cohan Rule</u> is alive and well at Docketed Appeals and Tax Court

Taxpayer gets one shot at Appeals.

§ 6662 Accuracy-Related Penalty Abatement almost automatic.

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# **Tax Court Petitions**

Excerpt from the Tax Court Petition shows the various situations that Tax Court has jurisdiction over. We are now going to discuss:

# **Notice of Determination**

### PETITION

- $1. \ \ Please \ check \ the \ appropriate \ box(es) \ to \ show \ which \ IRS \ NOTICE(s) \ you \ dispute:$
- □ Notice of Deficiency
   □ Notice of Determination Concerning Collection Action
- ☐ Determination of Worker Classification\*
- ☐ Notice of Final Determination Not to Abate Interest\*
- ☐ Notice of Determination Concerning Your Request for Relief From Joint and Several Liability\*

\*Please see the Court's Web site, <a href="www.ustaxcourt.gov">www.ustaxcourt.gov</a>, or information booklet for additional information if (1) you filed a claim for interest abatement or requested relief from joint and several liability, and the IRS has not made a determination, or (2) the petition involves a worker classification case.

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# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Tax Court has jurisdiction- IRC 6330(d)(1)

Notice of Determination (NOD) sets forth findings and conclusions

Taxpayer has 30 days to petition Tax Court

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# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Decision must be supported by

A statement of facts,

Some legal analysis, and

Some explanation of how or why the proposed levy balanced the need for collection with the taxpayer's interests

Must be an adequate record to support meaningful review

Living Care Alternatives of Utica v. United States, 411 F.3d 621 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2005)

# **Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court**

Appeals Judicial Approach and Culture (AJAC)

The Tax Court's standard of review in non-liability CDP determinations is to consider:

Whether Appeals' factual and legal conclusions reached at a CDP hearing are reasonable, not whether they are correct

The appropriateness of Appeals' ultimate decision

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# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Two standards of review

De novo if the underlying tax is in dispute

Abuse of discretion in all other situations

Court does not substitute IRS's judgment

Reviews the process, not the outcome

Resolution for taxpayer is a remand to Appeals

# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Abuse of discretion on Collection Issues

Decision is arbitrary, capricious, or fails to consider facts and circumstances

Does not follow statute and regulations

Fails to consider proposed alternative

Fails to evaluate the balancing test

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# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Fails to follow the IRM

Fails to give a reasoned decision

Relies on improper criteria or facts contrary to the evidence

Lacks sound basis in law and fact

# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Relies upon any improper criteria or facts that are contrary to the evidence

Decision is erroneous "as a matter of law"

Clear taxpayer abuse or unfairness by the IRS

Burden of proof on taxpayer

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# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Vinatieri v. Commissioner, 133 T.C. 392 (2009)

IRS abused discretion by failing to grant CNC status where taxpayer proved that levy would cause hardship, even though taxpayer was not current with tax return filing, since IRC 6343 mandates release of levy in hardship situations regardless of delinquent returns.

# Appealing the CDP Decision in Tax Court

Evaluate risk of Tax Court CDP litigation

Penalty of up to \$25,000 when

Proceedings institute/maintained primarily for delay

Position is frivolous/groundless, or

Unreasonable failure to pursue administrative remedies

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# **Some Actual NOD Cases**

Bill has represented over 20 Taxpayers who petitioned Tax Court Pro Se.

I have "coached" 5 EAs through their first Tax Court case.

# **Current Case**

Taxpayer and Spouse filed MFJ using TurboTax. They had earned income as well as taxable scholarship income and estimated federal tax payments.

Using TurboTax, they "forced" the estimated federal tax Payments into the W-2 withholding.

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# **Current Case (Continued)**

Return as filed showed: Correct Income Correct Tax

Taxpayers paid balance due.

IRS then reviewed return and ADDED the federal Estimated Tax paid and refunded this to the taxpayers.

Ultimately, taxpayers received a CP2000 stating that additional tax is due.

# **Current Case (Continued)**

IRS processing messed up.

Taxpayers immediately paid back the excess refund in full. IRS wants to call it additional tax.

Nationally recognized Tax Attorney has agreed to represent the taxpayers Pro Bono since this could be a landmark case (in the same vein as Beard).

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## CP2000 Unanswered - \$909K NOD

Taxpayer "forgot" to report the sale of 9 Properties worth \$1.5M Dollars 50 minute APPEALS phone call.

#### \$909K NOD to \$37K REFUND

20 Page FAX using back of the envelope numbers (Calculated rental depreciation using 80-20 rule)

4797 sale of business property with calculated Depreciation.

### CP2000 Unanswered - \$5K NOD

Taxpayer did not report HSA Distribution.

Had to document that taxpayer spent HSA Distribution on qualifying medical expenses.

FAX Qualifying Medical Expenses to Appeals.

Appeals would NOT accept IMPLANTS on paid receipts as qualifying medical expenses.

**DENTAL IMPLANTS!!!** 

Final Bill - \$837

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#### TCO Office Audit – No Show

TCO Office Audit of Taxpayer and Spouse.

Taxpayer called me on a Tuesday for Thursday Audit.

Taxpayer could not attend Thursday Audit.
I advised Taxpayer to request postponement of Audit Meeting.

Taxpayer called TCO – TCO said "NO" - reschedule but send me "what you have".

#### TCO Office Audit – No Show

Taxpayer hand-delivered 200 pages of **ORIGINAL** documentation to TCO.

Taxpayer received audit report several days after he delivered his **ORIGINAL** documentation to TCO. **\$188K** for 2 years including penalties.

TCO disallowed all expenses **BEFORE** she reviewed the taxpayer's documentation.

TCO would not change Audit Report.

TCO would NOT return ORIGINAL Docs.

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#### TCO Office Audit – No Show

What Now?

Advised Taxpayer to wait for \$188K NOD and then petition Tax Court Pro Se.

In the meanwhile, submit a FOIA Request on the audit to get a copy of the taxpayer's documentation.

Taxpayer received COPY of his Docs via FOIA.

Now it get interesting!

| Form 4549-A  (Rev. March 2013)  Department of the Treasury-Int Income Tax Examin (Unagreed and Exception) | ation Changes   |                 | Page_  |
|---|---|-----------------|--------|
| Name and Address of Taxpayer  | Taxpayer Identification                                       | n Number        | Return |
|   |   | Name and Tit    |        |
|   | Person with whom<br>examination<br>changes were<br>discussed. | MICHAEL R & ERI |        |
| Adjustments to Income   | Period End  | Period En       |        |
| a Sch Cl - Advertising  | 12/31/2015  | 12/31/2016      | 97.00  |
| b. Sch C2 - Supplies  | 5,907.00  | 1               | 14.00  |
| c. Sch C2 - Office Expenses   | 3,034.00  | 1               | 52.00  |
| d. Sch C2 - Advertising   | 6,060.00  | 1               | 12.00  |
| e, Sch C2 - Contract labor  | 251,711.00  | 197,3           | 69.00  |
| f. Sch C2 - Car and Truck Expenses  | 18,294.00   | 13,1            | 08.00  |
| g. Sch Cl - Car and Truck Expenses  | 14,051.00   | 11,0            | 05.00  |
| h. SE AGI Adjustment  | (8,987.00)  | (8,64           | 3.00)  |
| i Itemized Deductions   | 8,843.00  | 6,9             | 50.00  |
| j. Exemptions   | 2,800.00  |                 |        |
| 45.40. A is also known as BAI   | <del>,</del>  |                 |        |
| 4549-A is also known as RAF   | <b>1</b>  |                 |        |
| n. Dovonus Agent Deport   |   | 1               |        |
| – Revenue Agent Report  |   |                 |        |
| Total Adjustments   | 302,204.00  | 232,8           | 64.00  |
| Taxable Income Per Return or as Previously Adjusted   | (9,994.00)  | (37,70          |        |

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#### TCO Office Audit - No Show

Self-Prepared Return

Taxpayer is self-employed - financial products.

No W-2 wages on return

Claimed Taxpayer 2106 non-reimbursed employee expenses. – (2106 is for W-2 Workers)

Exaggerated Sch C vehicle business mileage:

2015 24K Miles Claimed 10K Actual

2016 20K Miles Claimed 6K Actual

After the audit was complete, he then told me he was riding his motorcycle to some of his appointments!!!

# **Spouse Business – Cleaning Houses**

\$200K in 1099-MISC issued to workers yearly. 40% undocumented – Using a FAKE ITIN

Spouse did NOT know she was supposed to send 1096/1099s to the IRS.

Since 2010, she never sent 1099-MISC to the IRS.

Appeals allowed 100% worker labor when we showed copies of all cancelled checks.
Would NOT abate penalties since NO 1099s were sent to IRS and some workers were NOT documented.

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# **Final Appeals Decision**

# \$188K NOD reduced to \$15K

Could take it forward to Chief Council but it would cost more in fees than the reduction in penalties.

# New Case Office Audit - \$170K NOD

Audit POA took audit to appeals – **NO Benefit** 

#### **Background**

Commercial Office Cleaning Service \$1M Revenue per year

Taxpayer is undocumented (ITIN)
40 Undocumented Employees – Paid in Cash
Really short of receipts

Reduced \$170K to \$40K without showing one additional receipt.

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# Office Audit w/Appeals - \$170K NOD

Case had already been to Appeals – Had to negotiate with Chief Counsel Attorneys.

Purchased BIZSTATS Report 30 Commercial Cleaning Companies in Atlanta with gross revenues of \$1M

None of the categories matched.

#### Advocated the following:

Since Taxpayer is in the same business as her 30 competitors, her pretax profit should be the same as her competitors – **10%** 

Chief Counsel Attorney accepted this story

#### Summary - Taxpayer 2012 & 2013 Form 1040

Sch C was audited for both years and some ordinary and necessary expenses were partially disallowed:

|                | 2012 | 201 |
|----------------|------|-----|
|                | ==== | === |
| Contract Labor | Х    | Х   |
| Supplies       | Х    | Х   |
| Other Expenses |      | Х   |
| Toois          |      | Х   |
|                |      |     |

Profit Summary 2012 2013 As Filed 2% Industry Standard 10% 10% Audit

Recommendation:

Accept Industry Standard Pre-Tax Profit Margin of 10%

2012 Tax: \$ 9,353 (Before Interest) \$ 26,418 (Before Interest)

Waive Accuracy-Related Penalties - Paid Preparer

was at fault.

1 Page Summary presented to Chief **Counsel Attorney** 

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# **Summary - Taxpayer** 2012 & 2013 Form 1040

Sch C was audited for both years and some ordinary and necessary expenses were partially disallowed:

| 2012 | 2013                   |
|------|------------------------|
| ==== | ====                   |
| Χ    | X                      |
| Χ    | X                      |
|      | X                      |
| •    | X                      |
|      | 2012<br>====<br>X<br>X |

\_\_\_\_\_

**Profit Summary** 2012 2013 As Filed 2% 2% **Industry Standard 10%** 10% 27% Audit 31%

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Profit Summary 2012 2013 ====

As Filed 2% 2%

Industry Standard 10% 10%

Audit 27% 31%

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Recommendation:**

Accept Industry Standard Pre-Tax Profit Margin of 10%

2012 Tax: \$ 9,353 ( Before Interest )

2013 Tax: \$ 26,418 ( Before Interest )

Waive Accuracy-Related Penalties - Paid Preparer was at fault.

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# Office Audit w/Appeals - \$170K NOD

Case had been to appeals AFTER the audit. Taxpayer gets 1 Shot at Appeals.

Had to negotiate directly with Chief Counsel Attorneys.

#### **Summary**

Reduced \$170K to \$40K without showing one additional receipt.

#### **Additional Tax Court Cases**

- Unanswered CP2000 Abated \$1,400 in Penalties
- Taxpayer did his own Sch C office audit (poorly)
   Taxpayer Petitioned Tax Court Long time EA
   Handled Docketed Appeals representation:
   \$55K reduced to \$3.3K
- Taxpayer did her own correspondence exam (poorly)
   Taxpayer petitioned Tax Court
   \$20K reduced to \$4,600
- Audit of W-2 Waitress \$ 200K W-2 \$9,206 reduces to ZERO (No Change)
- Correspondence Audit of Sch C hairdresser Single parent household – Restored \$5,000 Refund.

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#### Questions???



Steve Klitzner, Esq Bill Nemeth, EA, MBA

# REDACTED EXAMPLE OF TAX COURT PETITION

# **Scenario:**

Self-Employed Insurance salesman uses TurboTax successfully for years.

Has a strong 2016 - Goes to a CPA to make sure it is done right.

Fills out the Intake Document and says he has \$109K SE income (Includes all 14 of his 1099-MISC for \$134K).

CPA uses the income shown on his Intake Document and files the return short the \$25K of Self-Employment.

Taxpayer receives a CP2000 Letter, immediately pays the \$10K balance due.

Taxpayer writes the IRS compelling letter requesting \$2K Penalty Abatement. IRS replies – NO!

Taxpayer calls his uncle who is a retired EA.

I get pulled into the loop and advise the taxpayer to file a petition Pro Se with the Tax Court .

Taxpayer timely files Tax Court Petition, requesting penalty abatement.

States that he agrees with the additional tax and has PAID it.

Tax Court receives petition – issues Docket Number.

IRS Chief Counsel attorney calls taxpayer, relates that Tax Court AGREES to abate the \$2K accuracy-related penalty immediately. Sends out Decision Docs for Signature.

\$60 Investment yield abatement of 20% of the amount due - \$2K (GOOD RETURN ON INVESTMENT)

**Redacted Tax Court Petition follows:** 

#### UNITED STATES TAX COURT

www.ustaxcourt.gov

These forms can be filled-in and printed directly from Adobe Reader. However, please be aware that the information you enter on a form cannot be saved to disk unless you are using the full Adobe Acrobat software suite.

To begin, move your mouse pointer over the Petitioner(s) name field. Your pointer will turn into a vertical beam, indicating that you are over an editable field. Simply click

once and begin typing. Use the Tab key to move forward through the form fields (Shift+Tab to move backwards).

(FIRST) (MIDDLE)

TOMMY C TAXPAYER
TAMMY P TAXPAYER
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT) Petitioner(s)

v.

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE,

Respondent

| DE | וידיי | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{I} \cap$ | NI |
|----|-------|--------------|-------------------|----|

Docket No.

- 1. Please check the appropriate box(es) to show which IRS ACTION(S) you dispute:
- Notice of Deficiency
- G Notice of Determination Concerning Collection Action
- G Notice of Final Determination for [Full/Partial]
  Disallowance of Interest Abatement Claim (or Failure of IRS to Make Final Determination Within 180 Days After Claim for Abatement)\*
- G Notice of Determination of Worker Classification\*
- G Notice of Determination Concerning Relief From Joint and Several Liability Under Section 6015 (or Failure of IRS to Make Determination Within 6 Months After Election or Request for Relief)\*
- G Notice of Certification of Your Seriously Delinquent Federal Tax Debt to the Department of State
- G Notice of Determination Under Section 7623 Concerning Whistleblower Action\*

\*For additional information, please see "Taxpayer Information: Starting a Case" at www.ustaxcourt.gov (accessible by hyperlink from asterisks above, or in the Court's information booklet).

| 2.  | If applicable, provide the date(s) the IRS issued the NOTICE(S) checked above and the city and State of the IRS office(s) |
|-----|---|
| iss | suing the NOTICE(S): MAY 23, 2019 ATLANTA, GA   |
|     |   |
| 3.  | Provide the year(s) or period(s) for which the NOTICE(S) was/were issued: 2016  |

4. SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (unless your case is a whistleblower or a certification action):

If you want your case conducted under small tax case procedures, check here: **@** (CHECK

If you want your case conducted under regular tax case procedures, check here: **ONE BOX**)

NOTE: A decision in a "small tax case" cannot be appealed to a Court of Appeals by the taxpayer or the IRS. If you do not check either box, the Court will file your case as a regular tax case.

5. Explain why you disagree with the IRS determination in this case (please list each point separately):

CP2000 NOTICE - TAXPAYERS AGREE WITH THE ADDITIONAL TAX AND HAVE PAID THE TAX IN FULL.

TAXPAYERS ARE REQUESTING ABATEMENT OF THE \$1,873 ACCURACY-RELATED PENALTY.

| 6. State the facts upon which you rely (please list each point se  | parately):  |
|--|---|
| TAXPAYER IS SELF-EMPLOYED & HAS BEEN PREPAR  | ING HIS OWN RETURN FOR MANY YEARS. HOWEVER,   |
| TAXPAYER WANTED TO MAKE SURE HIS 2016 RETURN   | N WAS PREPARED CORRECTLY AND ENGAGED A CP.  |
| TO PREPARE 2016 - THE CPA FAILED TO ENTER ALL  | THE INCOME DOCUMENTS PROVIDED.  |
|  |   |
| THE IRS COMPUTER-MATCHING PROGRAM GENERAT  | ED THE CP2000 NOTICE.   |
| TAXPAYERS EXERCISED DUE DILIGENCE IN SELECTIN  | IG A LICENSED TAX PROFESSIONAL TO PREPARE   |
| THEIR 2016 RETURN. THEY SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZ  | ED FOR ERRORS MADE BY THE TAX PROFESSIONAL  |
|  |   |
| You may use additional pages to explain why you disagree w<br>Please do not submit tax forms, receipts, or other types of ev   |   |
| ENCLOSURES:  |   |
| Please check the appropriate boxes to show that you have enclose   | ed the following items with this petition:  |
| & A copy of any NOTICE(S) the IRS issued to you  |   |
| & Statement of Taxpayer Identification Number (Form 4) (See  | PRIVACY NOTICE below)   |
|  | The filing fee  |
| All other documents filed with the Court, including this Petition become part of the Court's public files. To protect your privacy. Petition, from any enclosed IRS Notice, and from any other documents (e.g., your Social Security number) and certain other con Regarding Privacy and Public Access to Case Files", available a | you are <u>strongly</u> encouraged to omit or remove from this ument (other than Form 4) your taxpayer identification infidential information as specified in the Tax Court's "Notice |
|  | 770 606 5555  |
| SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER DATE   | 770-626-5555 (AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NO.  |
| 123 PEACHTREE RD   | SANDY HILLS, GA 30349   |
| MAILING ADDRESS  | CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE   |
| State of legal residence (if different from the mailing address):  | E-mail address (if any): TOMMY.TAXPAYER@gmail.com   |
|  | 770-626-5555  |
| SIGNATURE OF ADDITIONAL PETITIONER (e.g., SPOUSE) DATE   | (AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NO.   |
| 123 PEACHTREE RD   | SANDY HILLS, GA 30349   |
| MAILING ADDRESS  | CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE   |
| State of legal residence (if different from the mailing address):  | E-mail address (if any):  |
| SIGNATURE OF COUNSEL, IF RETAINED BY PETITIONER(S)   | NAME OF COUNSEL DATE  |
| TAX COURT BAR NO MAILING   | ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE   |

(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NO.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

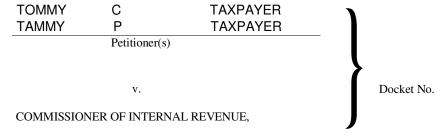
#### UNITED STATES TAX COURT

www.ustaxcourt.gov

| TOMMY<br>TAMMY | C<br>P           | TAXPAYER<br>TAXPAYER                                     | 1   |
|----------------|------------------|--|---|
| 1 AWW 1        | Petitioner(s)    |  |   |
|                | v.               |  | Docket No.  |
| COMMISSION     | ER OF INTERN     | JAL REVENUE,   |   |
|                |                  | Respondent   | )   |
|                |                  | MENT OF TAXPAYER ID g., Social Security number(s), emplo | ENTIFICATION NUMBER  oyer identification number(s))                               |
| Name           | of Petitioner    |  | TOMMY C TAXPAYER  |
| Petitio        | ner's Taxpayer   | Identification Number                                    | XXX-XX- 7186  |
| Name           | of Additional F  | Petitioner   | TAMMY P TAXPAYER  |
| Additi         | onal Petitioner' | s Taxpayer Identification Number                         | erXXX-XX-6573   |
| pursuant to S  | ection 6015,     |  | and several liability on a joint return through 325, name of the other individual |
| Тахра          | ayer Identifi    | cation Number of the other                               | individual, if available:   |
| SIGNA          | TURE OF PETI     | TIONER OR COUNSEL  | DATE  |
| SIGNA          | TURE OF ADD      | ITIONAL PETITIONER                                       | DATE  |

#### UNITED STATES TAX COURT

#### www.ustaxcourt.gov



#### Respondent

#### REQUEST FOR PLACE OF TRIAL

PLACE AN "X" IN ONLY ONE BOX TO REQUEST THE PLACE OF TRIAL. IF PETITIONER(S) ELECTED TO HAVE THE CASE CONDUCTED AS A SMALL TAX CASE, REQUEST ANY CITY LISTED BELOW; OTHERWISE, REQUEST ANY CITY  $\underline{\text{NOT}}$  MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (\*).

| ALABAMA         | KANSAS          | OHIO             |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 9 Birmingham    | 9 Wichita*      | 9 Cincinnati     |
| 9 Mobile        | KENTUCKY        | 9 Cleveland      |
| ALASKA          | 9 Louisville    | 9 Columbus       |
| 9 Anchorage     | LOUISIANA       | OKLAHOMA         |
| ARIZONA         | 9 New Orleans   | 9 Oklahoma City  |
| 9 Phoenix       | 9 Shreveport*   | OREGON           |
| ARKANSAS        | MAINE           | 9 Portland       |
| 9 Little Rock   | 9 Portland*     | PENNSYLVANIA     |
| CALIFORNIA      | MARYLAND        | 9 Philadelphia   |
| 9 Fresno*       | 9 Baltimore     | 9 Pittsburgh     |
| 9 Los Angeles   | MASSACHUSETTS   | SOUTH CAROLINA   |
| 9 San Diego     | 9 Boston        | 9 Columbia       |
| 9 San Francisco | MICHIGAN        | SOUTH DAKOTA     |
| COLORADO        | 9 Detroit       | 9 Aberdeen*      |
| 9 Denver        | MINNESOTA       | TENNESSEE        |
| CONNECTICUT     | 9 St. Paul      | 9 Knoxville      |
| 9 Hartford      | MISSISSIPPI     | 9 Memphis        |
| DISTRICT OF     | 9 Jackson       | 9 Nashville      |
| COLUMBIA        | MISSOURI        | TEXAS            |
| 9 Washington    | 9 Kansas City   | 9 Dallas         |
| FLORIDA         | 9 St. Louis     | 9 El Paso        |
| 9 Jacksonville  | MONTANA         | 9 Houston        |
| 9 Miami         | 9 Billings*     | 9 Lubbock        |
| 9 Tallahassee*  | 9 Helena        | 9 San Antonio    |
|                 | NEBRASKA        | UTAH             |
| GEORGIÁ         | 9 Omaha         | 9 Salt Lake City |
| X Atlanta       | NEVADA          | VERMONT          |
|                 | 9 Las Vegas     | 9 Burlington*    |
| 9 Honolulu      | 9 Reno          | VIRGINIA         |
| IDAHO           | NEW MEXICO      | 9 Richmond       |
| 9 Boise         | 9 Albuquerque   | 9 Roanoke*       |
| 9 Pocatello*    | NEW YORK        | WASHINGTON       |
| ILLINOIS        | 9 Albany*       | 9 Seattle        |
| 9 Chicago       | 9 Buffalo       | 9 Spokane        |
| 9 Peoria*       | 9 New York City | WEST VIRGINIA    |
| INDIANA         | 9 Syracuse*     | 9 Charleston     |
| 9 Indianapolis  | NORTH CAROLINA  | WISCONSIN        |
| IOWA            | 9 Winston-Salem | 9 Milwaukee      |
| 9 Des Moines    | NORTH DAKOTA    | WYOMING          |
|                 | 9 Bismarck*     | 9 Cheyenne*      |

# COMPLETE REDACTED3219A NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY IS INCLUDED AFTER THE LAST PAGE OF THE PETITION.