

The Gartzman Law Firm, P.C. February 2016 Newsletter

Attorney Spotlight

Atlanta Based Tax
Attorney and CPA
serving clients
throughout Georgia and
nationwide since 1982!



Jeffrey S. Gartzman, Esq.
Proudly serving clients throughout
Georgia and nationwide for over
30+ years!

Greetings!

We are currently in the midst of the 2015 tax season. We hope everyone has been able to obtain their necessary tax documentation and are ready to begin the steps in order to get their Federal and state returns prepared and filed. If you have not received your tax documentation, you should reach out to the applicable parties and request the documentation. If you would like our firm to provide you with a tax preparation quote, please forward your tax preparation information to our firm as soon as possible. **For this year only, the deadline to file your 2015 personal tax returns is April 18, 2016.**

Please remember, we are a tax law firm and Mr. Gartzman is a tax attorney and CPA. Our firm prepares and files delinquent and current tax returns. However, we also deal with any outstanding balances that you may have due to the IRS, Georgia Department of Revenue or any other state tax authority. If you have an unresolved tax matter, please contact our firm to discuss how we can assist with this matter. With our assistance, we can help set you on the path to resolving any past issues as well as preparing you to plan properly for future tax years.

The Gartzman Law Firm, P.C., wants to remind you we are always here to help with any tax needs that you may have and we consider it an honor to work with you to resolve your tax matters.

Thank you for your loyalty and for allowing our firm to assist you with your legal and tax matters. You are the reason that we do what we do and we will continue to strive to make your legal and tax matters as painless as possible. Your business is appreciated and all referrals are welcome. Please mention our name to friends and family and please feel free to complete the attached evaluation form below and forward to us, so we can see how we are doing.

[Click here to provide valuable feedback!](#)

One of the greatest compliments you can give us is to allow us to continue to service your future legal and tax needs including preparation of future tax returns. Further, by referring your family and friends!

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The Gartzman Law Firm Team
The Gartzman Law Firm, P.C.

Attorney Spotlight

Georgia State University Law School graduate.



Oliver "Judson" Mallory
Associate Attorney with GLF for
over 5 years!

Staff Spotlight

Mercer University Graduate



Tabitha Relota
Client Service Manager & Legal
Assistant with GLF for over 5
years!

From our staff....Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to serve you. Your business is appreciated and your referrals are welcomed.

Please mention our name to any friends and/or family that may need our services.

Knowledgeable, Determined and Experienced. IRS & State Tax Problem Representation Services Include:

Timely Tax Return Preparation
Delinquent Tax Return Preparation
Innocent Spouse Claims
Injured Spouse Claims
Offers in Compromise
Installment Payment Plans
IRS ID Theft Cases
IRS Penalties and Interest
State Tax Problems
Settle IRS Back Taxes
IRS Audits
Payroll Tax Problems
IRS Appeals
Foreign Bank Account (FBAR) Cases
Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Cases

Be aware of inflation-adjusted 2016 tax numbers

Certain tax numbers are adjusted for inflation each year. This year, many of the numbers are unchanged or change only slightly from 2015 amounts. Here are some of the tax numbers to use in your 2016 tax planning.

- The maximum earnings subject to social security tax in 2016 is \$118,500, unchanged from 2015. The \$15,720 earnings limit for those under full retirement age is also unchanged. If you've reached full retirement age, there is no earnings limit.
- ● The "nanny tax" threshold is \$2,000 in 2016, up from \$1,900 for 2015. If you pay household employees \$2,000 or more during the year, you're generally responsible for payroll taxes.
- ● The "kiddie tax" threshold remains \$2,100 for 2016. If your under-age 19 child (under age 24 for students) has more than \$2,100 of unearned income, such as dividends and interest income, this year, the excess could be taxed at your highest rate.
- ● The maximum individual retirement account (IRA) contribution you can make in 2016 remains unchanged - \$5,500 if you're under age 50 and \$6,500 if you are 50 or older.
- ● The maximum amount of wages employees can put into a 401(k) plan remains at \$18,000. The 2016 maximum allowed for SIMPLE plans is \$12,500. If you are 50 or older, you can contribute up to \$24,000 to your 401(k) and \$15,500 to your SIMPLE plan.
- ● For 2016, the maximum amount you can contribute to a health savings account is \$3,350 for individuals and \$6,750 for families. The catch-up contribution when you're age 55 or older is \$1,000.

Contact us for additional information about these and other inflation-adjusted tax numbers.

Make time for a conversation with your parents about finances

Discussing finances with your parents may be a talk none of you are eager to tackle. But addressing the topic can benefit your entire family by clarifying your parents' wishes and enabling you to help establish a joint plan for carrying those wishes to fruition. Here are questions that can start the dialogue.

- • Legal - Do your parents have a will and an estate plan? Have they executed a trust, a durable power of attorney for finances, or an advance healthcare directive? Will they allow you to review the documents and/or speak with their attorney?
- • Medical - What medical insurance policies are in place? Do your parents have long-term care insurance? Who is their personal physician and what significant medical issues exist?
- • Income, expenses, and debt - What are the sources and amounts of your parents' income and expenses? To whom do your parents owe money, and how much do they owe?
- • Records - Where do your parents keep tax returns, bank and brokerage statements, and similar records? Who are their tax preparers, financial advisors, and/or stockbrokers? Will your parents allow you current access to those records and advisors?

Talking about finances with your parents can be a daunting prospect. Give us a call if you'd like us to be part of the conversation. We're here to help.

Get the right paperwork to claim charitable deductions

What supporting documentation do you need to claim charitable deductions on your federal income tax return?

In general, you can support monetary contributions of any amount with a cancelled check, credit card statement, proof of payroll deduction, or a receipt from the charity. The paperwork must show the organization's name and the amount and date of your contribution.

When you contribute cash of \$250 or more, get a written acknowledgement from the charity. The receipt must show the name of the charity, the date of your donation, and the amount donated, as well as a description and the estimated value of any nondeductible item (such as a book or dinner) provided to you.

For property donations, keep copies of support for the value you claimed. The allowable deduction for a property donation is generally limited to the lesser of cost (or other basis) or fair market value. That means you'll need records showing what you paid for the item, as well as support for the current value. For example, you might use ads from second-hand stores or consignment shops to determine the fair market value of donated clothing and household items.

Be aware that the higher the value of a property donation, the more support you need. When you donate an item with a value under \$250, ask for a receipt from the charity showing the organization's name, the date and location of the contribution, and a description of the property. For items valued up to \$500, the receipt also needs to include a statement indicating whether you were given any goods or services in exchange for your contribution. In addition, the receipt must provide a description and estimated value for those goods or services. If you donate property with a value between \$500 and \$5,000, your paperwork must show how and when you got the property and its cost or other basis. Items valued over \$5,000 generally need a written appraisal from a qualified appraiser.

Additional requirements apply when you donate property that has appreciated in value. Call us for more information.

Note upcoming tax deadlines

- February 29 - Payers must file information returns, such as Forms 1099, with the IRS. This deadline is extended to March 31 when the forms are filed electronically.
- February 29 - Employers must send W-2 copies to the Social Security Administration. This deadline is extended to March 31 for electronic filing.
- March 1 - Farmers and fishermen who did not make 2015 estimated tax payments must file 2015 tax returns and pay taxes in full to avoid a penalty.
- March 15 - 2015 calendar-year corporation income tax returns are due.
- March 15 - Deadline for calendar-year corporations to elect S corporation status for 2016.
- March 31 - Large employers must furnish Forms 1095-C to employees.

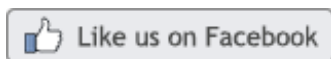
Note:

This newsletter includes general legal and tax topics of interest for a broad range of readers. It is not legal or tax advice that readers may rely on as a recommendation for their particular situation nor is it a promise or guarantee of a particular outcome or result.

-Free Telephone Consultation-

Mention this newsletter and receive a \$50 Discount off your Tax Return Preparation Services or \$100 Discount off any other Tax Service!

The greatest compliment you can give us is to refer us to family and Friends!



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