

The Gartzman Law Firm, P.C. September 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!

Hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. Fall officially starts September 22, 2016. **We want to remind everyone that if you filed a 2015 personal tax extension, the deadline to file your returns is October 15, 2016.** We request that our clients forward their applicable tax preparation information to our firm immediately, if they have not already. If you need to discuss your tax preparation information or have any questions, please contact our firm. We would be more than happy to assist you with getting ready for the upcoming deadline.

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!

Sincerely,

The Gartzman Law Firm Team
The Gartzman Law Firm, P.C.
(770)939-7710

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

IRS sets 2017 HSA limits

The IRS announced inflation-adjusted limits for deductible contributions to health savings accounts (HSAs) for 2017. For family coverage, the contribution limit will be \$6,750, and for individual coverage, the limit will be \$3,400. If you're age 55 or older, you can contribute an additional \$1,000 during 2017. HSAs combine high-deductible health insurance plans with pretax contributions to a healthcare savings account. The savings account funds can be withdrawn tax-free to pay unreimbursed medical expenses.

FSA or HSA? Choosing between health accounts

Are you confused about your choices for paying medical expenses under your employer's benefit plan? Here are differences between two types of commonly offered accounts: a health savings account (HSA) and a health care flexible spending account (FSA).

Overview. An FSA is generally established under an employer's benefit plan. You can set aside a portion of your salary on a pretax basis to pay out-of-pocket medical expenses. An HSA is a combination of a high-deductible health plan and a savings account in which you save pretax dollars to pay medical expenses not covered by the insurance.
Contributions. For 2016, you can contribute up to a maximum of \$2,550 to an FSA. Typically, you have to use the funds by the end of the year. Why? Unused amounts are forfeited under what's commonly called the "use it or lose it" rule. However, your employer can adopt one of two exceptions to the rule.

If you are single, the 2016 HSA contribution limit is \$3,350 (\$6,750 for a family). You can add a catch-up contribution of \$1,000 if you are over age 55. You do not have to spend all the money you contribute to your HSA each year. You can leave the funds in the account and let the earnings grow.

Earnings. FSAs do not earn interest. Your employer holds your money until you request reimbursement for qualified expenses. HSAs are savings accounts, and the money in the account can be invested. Earnings held in the account are not included in your income.

Withdrawals. Distributions from both accounts are tax- and penalty-

free as long as you use the funds for qualified medical expenses.

Portability. Normally, your FSA stays with your employer when you change jobs. Your HSA belongs to you, and you can take the account funds with you from job to job. That's true even if your employer makes contributions to your HSA for you.

Because you generally can't contribute to both accounts in the same year, understanding the differences can help you make a decision that best fits your circumstances. Contact us for help as you consider your benefit choices.

IRS Reels in the Owner and His Employee of a Fish & Seafood Company on Tax Charges

Jack Ventola, the owner of National Fish & Seafood, was arrested in November 2015 for failing to declare and pay taxes on more than \$2 million of income. The indictment against Ventola alleges that Ventola used the services of a temporary labor company named Continental Labor Team, which Ventola controlled. He allegedly prepared false invoices from Continental to obtain payments which he then would deposit directly into his account to pay personal expenses.

Richard Pandolfo, of Gloucester, MA, an employee of National Fish & Seafood was indicted on four counts of making and filing false tax returns. It's alleged that from 2009 to 2012, Pandolfo received over \$90,000 in unreported income. The payments were made to either Pandolfo or to a shell company set up in the name of Pandolfo's wife. Neither case has gone to trial yet. Both Ventola and Pandolfo face up to 3 years in prison and a fine of \$100,000.

Know Your Tax Preparer

Tax preparer Sharon Ashby of N.J. pleaded guilty to preparing 48 fraudulent tax returns for her clients. Ashby intentionally included false employment information on fake W-2's, showing clients earning wages where they were not employed, and claiming deductions they were not entitled to receive, in order generate false refunds. Ashby filed these returns electronically and kept a portion of the refund for herself. The fake returns resulted in the IRS issuing refunds in the amount of \$238,877. She faces up to 5 years in prison.

Five Arrested in the Largest Single Action in the History of the IRS Impersonation Scam

A call into the IRS Aging Committee's Fraud Hotline in October, 2015 resulted in the arrest of five individuals operating out of Miami, FL who allegedly scammed almost \$2 million from more than 1,500 victims.

The caller reported that he received a call from an individual claiming to be from the IRS and demanded immediate payment of alleged back taxes in the amount of \$2,000. The victim was told to go to his local Walmart store and wire the money via MoneyGram immediately. The victim was so distraught that on his way to Walmart he crashed his car but left the scene of the crime to wire the money to avoid

possible legal action.

The Fraud Hotline investigator was able to trace the wire and using surveillance tapes, was able to identify two suspects. A further investigation led them to three additional suspects. Jennifer Nunez, Dennis Cabellero, Arnoldo Mirabal, Yaritza Diaz and Roberto Caballero were arrested without incident and charged in May, 2016 with wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Their trial date is pending.

Could you qualify for a partial home-sale exclusion?

Generally, when you're single, you can exclude up to \$250,000 of gain from the sale of a home (\$500,000 if you're married filing jointly) when the home is used as a primary residence for two years in a five-year period that ends on the date of sale. Tax law also provides for a partial exclusion when the time and ownership requirements are not met, if the primary reason for the sale is unforeseen circumstances. "Unforeseen" means events you could not have reasonably anticipated before buying the home and moving in. How flexible is the definition? Recently, the IRS allowed a partial exclusion when a family living in a two-bedroom, two-bath condominium gave birth to another child and needed a larger residence before the two-year rule was met.

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!



Transcript Review

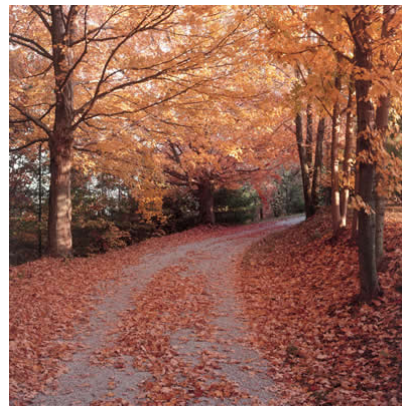
We recognize that many people do not have all of their necessary tax preparation documentation, you may want to know what has been

reported to the IRS for the current tax year or you may want to know what estimated tax payments have been applied to your account, that is why we recommend that our firm review your IRS transcripts yearly.

Our Price for Current Year Transcript Review:
\$150

Up to Two Past Year and Current Year Transcript Review: \$350

Full Compliance Check:



\$650