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"YOUR IRS WEAPON,  
THE TRAVIS WATKINS SHOW"

Every Sunday at 4:00pm

#### Inside this issue:

America fears IRS	<b>1</b>
IRS vs Michael Jackson's estate	<b>2</b>
FL Tax Invasion	<b>2</b>
Celebrity Look	<b>2</b>
GA Tax Invasion	<b>3</b>
Client Testimonial	<b>3</b>
Trivia	<b>4</b>

# THE IRS TATTLER

TRAVIS W. WATKINS, PC

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## IRS is America's feared and failing agency

Week after week, Republicans on Capitol Hill have ratcheted up their drumbeat of discontent with the Internal Revenue Service, alleging that it targeted conservative groups and can't be trusted. Six investigations are underway, ensuring the matter will drag on for months or years.

But there is a bigger question about America's least-loved federal agency that barely gets asked: Is the IRS, which collects 90 percent of the nation's revenue, up to the basics of its job?

The surprising answer is that it often is not. A Globe review of dozens of government reports and audits, as well as interviews with key officials, found a series of fundamental problems:

■ The IRS makes billions of dollars in potentially fraudulent payments because it lacks the ability to check whether many returns

are accurate before refunds are mailed.

■ The IRS relies on tax preparers to file accurate returns on behalf of taxpayers. But many preparers are not required to receive training and can be declared a tax professional by paying a \$64.25 fee to the IRS. A federal court on Tuesday rejected the agency's effort to license such preparers.

■ The IRS is increasingly impenetrable to taxpayers with questions and complaints. The agency is so short-staffed it cannot answer nearly 40 percent of phone calls, and it has failed to meet its own 45-day deadline to respond to millions of letters per year from taxpayers. The same dismal rate is likely to be repeated this year, according to the agency.

■ The decision by Congress to cut the agency's budget over the past four years

by more than \$1 billion, designed to save money, has had the reverse effect. The loss of about 10,000 employees, more than 9 percent of the workforce, has shrunk collections by \$8 billion. In other words, the budget cut increased the deficit.

All of this helps explain why, in a strikingly harsh but little-noticed assessment of the IRS's own office of the national taxpayer advocate, the agency was declared last June to be "an institution in crisis." That was followed by the office's January report to Congress that upped the sense of urgency, warning that unless changes are made soon, the IRS will "fail at its mission."

If you have tax problems, we will not fail at our mission to help you. Give us a call at 1-800-721-7054.

By Michael Kranish  
Boston Globe

## IRS ACCUSES MICHAEL JACKSON ESTATE OF CHEATING ON TAXES

Even in death, singer Michael Jackson can't escape taxes. The estate of the King of Pop is now a target of the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS told executors of Michael Jackson's estate that it owes \$505 million in taxes and another \$197 mil-

lion in penalties, according to documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times. Executors for Jackson's estate estimated the singer's net worth at \$7 million at the time of his death in 2009. According to the IRS's filing, the govern-

ment disputes the executors' estimate. Instead, Jackson's estate was worth \$1.125 billion, the gov-

ernment said. The IRS accused Jackson's estate of grossly underestimating values. For example, the estate estimated Jackson's likeness at \$2,105. The IRS alleges now that the likeness is worth more than \$434 million.

**ASTPS**



## FLORIDA MAN GUILTY OF \$1 MILLION TAX EVASION

A Florida man pleaded guilty to evading more than \$1 million in taxes. Walter Medlin, 70, of Kissimmee, Fla., faces up to five years in federal prison. According to court documents, Medlin received more than \$7.5 million in income from the sale of an interest in a landfill. Rather than report

that income on his tax return, he attempted to evade his taxes by using several limited partnerships to conduct transactions for his benefit.

To further conceal the offense, Medlin failed to file a tax return, but submitted requests for extensions in which he falsely represented that he did not owe any taxes.

## Our Staff Celebrity Look-A-Like of the Month



Zach Gregory



Lucas Ross

Mr. Gregory is an Associate Attorney for the Law Offices of Travis W. Watkins, PC. He has a deep desire to provide effective advocacy to his clients when they need help resolving their complex and intimidating tax problems. He received his Law Degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2013. He attended Oklahoma Christian University and received his B.S. in Psychology in 2008.

He grew up in Shawnee, OK where he met his wife, Kellyn. They now live in Oklahoma City and enjoy watching Thunder games and playing with their two dogs.

## GEORGIA DENTIST CONVICTED ON TAX EVASION CHARGE

A Georgia dentist has pleaded guilty to tax evasion. Dr. Dayo Obebe, of Muscogee County, Ga., operated the Moon Road Cosmetic and Family Dentistry in Columbus, Ga., and the Brent Dental Dentistry in Brent, Ala.

In 2004, Obebe began to conceal intentionally money he earned from patients who paid with credit cards from his accountants and the IRS by placing credit card payments into a separate bank

account from other cash and check receipts. Consequently, Obebe underreported his total income from the dental practice on his 2004, 2005 and 2006 federal income tax returns by more than \$500,000 and falsely claimed a tax refund.

In 2007, the IRS audited Obebe's tax return. In 2008, Obebe lied during an audit when he stated that he accurately reported his income on his tax return when he knew that he had earned

substantially more income over the three-year period than he had reported to the IRS. In total, Obebe evaded paying more \$185,000 in tax to the IRS on his 2004, 2005 and 2006 federal income tax returns.

Obebe faces up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. In addition, according to the plea agreement, he has agreed to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$189,661.

*The operator of dental clinics in Georgia and Alabama kept credit card payments in a separate account to hide the money from the IRS.*



# Happy St. Patrick's Day!

### Lawyer Joke of the Month



Even lawyers don't think tax lawyers are funny.

### Deadlines

**-March 3** - Deadline for Farmers and Fishermen who have a return or pay the balance due without incurring any late payment penalties.

**-March 17-** Deadline for corporate tax returns for the year 2013

Your firm does what you say your going to do. My husband and I were so pleased with the way our case was handled. We had a great experience all the way through. So glad we chose Travis Watkins to deal with our IRS issue.

K.M in Harrah



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# The IRS Tattler

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## Special giveaway! \$25 off any tax service

**Question:**

According to  
legend, leprechauns  
were  
originally what?

- A. Shoemakers
- B. Thieves
- C. Midgets
- D. Magicians

SuperLawyers

