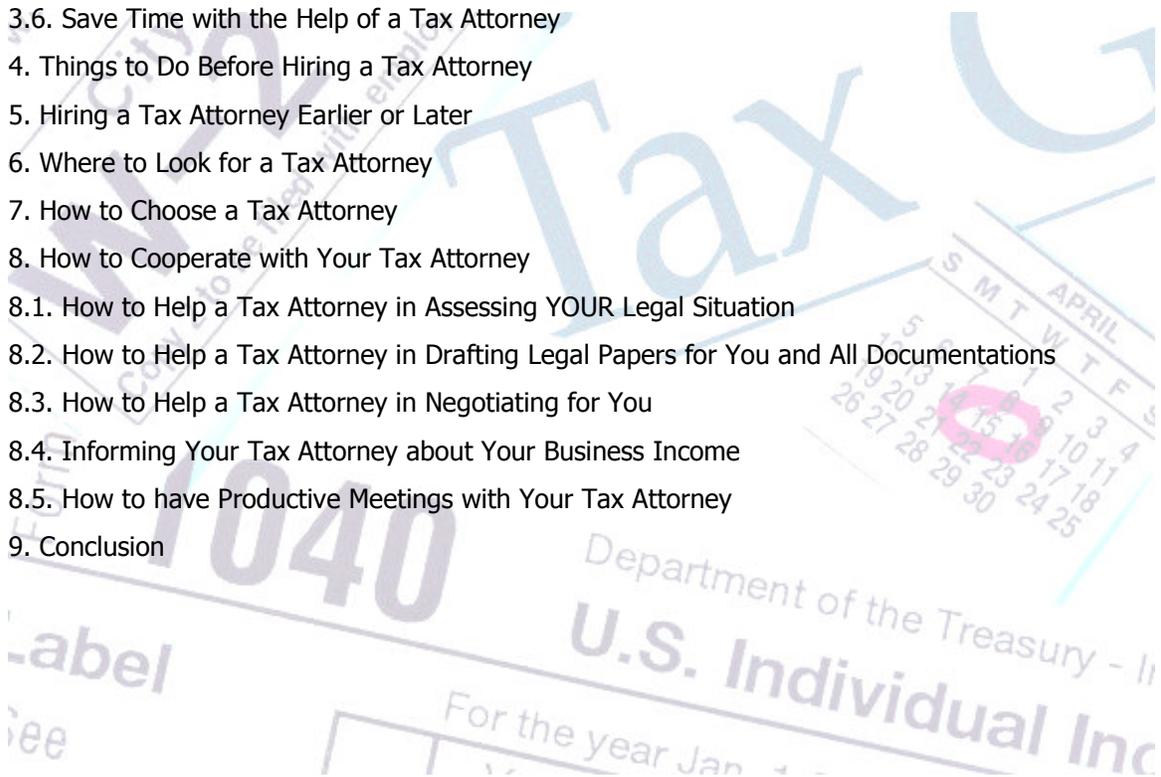


How to Work With a Tax Attorney



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What is a Tax Attorney?

While many business owners recognize the importance of having a secretary and an accountant at their disposal, few realize the equally significant need of having a personal tax attorney. A tax attorney is an attorney with specialized skills or expertise in taxation laws. Although he can also represent clients regarding other aspects of the law, a tax attorney will be especially helpful when it comes to resolving tax problems and issues. A tax attorney generally has advanced training and education in taxation law to distinguish him from other lawyers.

How Tax Attorneys Can Help You

There are basically two ways for tax attorneys to provide aid to you or your business:

Tax Planning – Tax attorneys are like financial managers in the sense that they manage your financial affairs to ensure that you will not encounter any tax difficulties in the future. Tax attorneys will guide you in every step and steer you to the right path when your finances are beginning to wave a red flag at the IRS.

Tax Controversy – Tax attorneys can also defend your rights when you're already embroiled in a tax controversy. If you're already having difficulties with your taxes, a tax attorney will help you out by straightening your affairs and clearing your name. A tax attorney will be able to reduce penalties, remove liens if possible, and negotiate whatever needs negotiating with the government.

When Should You Hire a Tax Attorney?

The answer to this question depends entirely on you. You can head off potential troubles for you and your business by paying a monthly retainer to your tax attorney. As such, he'll be able to act in an advisory capability and warn you when you're about to do something wrong. He can also coordinate with your accountant regularly to ensure that you will have no tax trouble in the future. Of course, you can always opt to hire a tax attorney only and only when you are already experiencing tax difficulties and you feel helpless in the negotiation table with the IRS. While the first option is the most ideal, this second option is still better than not hiring a tax attorney at all. Only few civilians or business owners have the necessary skills and attitude to deal effectively with the IRS.

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How Much Will a Tax Attorney Cost?

If you wish to employ a tax attorney by paying him a monthly retainer, the fee will range from several hundred to more than a thousand dollars every month, depending on the duties and responsibilities you wish for the attorney to take care of and the law firm you're transacting with. If you wish to consult with a tax attorney only when there's a need, you may be charged by an hourly rate. Again, the rate will depend on the law firm you're transacting with and the problem at hand.

If you are hiring a tax attorney to handle your tax case, you may not need to pay any of his fees at all if you win your case. The IRS will be responsible for it instead. Your tax attorney may also opt to have a percentage of your tax savings.



Chapter 2 - Kinds of Tax Attorney

You've finally decided that you do need a tax attorney to handle your present trouble, but there's still another question that needs to be answered: what kind of tax attorney exactly do you need? Tax attorneys not only come in different shapes and sizes, but they also come with a range of skills and expertise. It's important that you choose the right kind of tax attorney to handle your case so you can not only save on time and money but you can rest easily as well knowing that you have the best choice of lawyer to help you out.

To know the different types of tax attorney, all you have to know is the different types of taxation laws and taxation problems then find one with the greatest amount of knowledge, experience, and expertise in it.

Tax Planning – Tax attorneys with expertise in tax planning will assist in reviewing and structuring your financial affairs to ensure that you get into no IRS trouble. Tax planning attorneys must keep themselves abreast with the latest tax laws to make the necessary changes for their clients. Tax planning attorneys can provide aid to both civilian and business clients alike.

Tax Controversy – If you already have a pending case filed in court, you need to hire a tax attorney that is adept in managing tax controversies. This type of tax attorney is no wallflower in the courtroom; he's used to defending his client to the judge and jury. He is also familiar with working with the IRS and knows the right buttons to push in order to prove the innocence of their clients. Tax controversy attorneys can be further divided into two categories: those who handle civilian lawsuits, and those that are involved with businesses and corporations.

Property Tax – Tax attorneys with a specialty in property tax are those who can help you renegotiate your property taxes with the IRS and ensure that you're paying the right amount. They will also help you form a solid case to present to the court and prove that whatever information gathered against you is incorrect or inaccurate. They can also help you survive tax audits initiated by the IRS, file the right income and tax deductions, and make appeals if your previous attempt to clear your name fails.

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Bankruptcy Law – There are also tax attorneys who specialize in handling bankruptcy cases. Tax attorneys help their clients file for bankruptcy and ensure that their clients are providing valid and accurate information about their finances. They will also help their clients negotiate with the IRS and other creditors if repayment is required. It's possible that you'll encounter tax attorneys who have capabilities in handling all aspects of the taxation law. These tax attorneys however may only choose to take on either civilian or corporate clients.

Civilian Tax Attorneys – They are able to help individuals straighten out their finances, catch up with unpaid taxes, and make sure that they continue to pay their dues on time in the future. They are usually hired on a consultation basis only.

Corporate Attorneys – These attorneys are usually paid with a monthly retainer to smoothen out any possible tax difficulty when the company is involved with a new project or a potential dispute with the IRS.

The Assistance a Tax Attorney Can Provide Whether or not you're already experiencing tax difficulties, there are innumerable ways that having a tax attorney in your employ can help you have a better sleep at night.



Chapter 3 - Ways a Tax Attorney Can Provide Assistance

Review Your Financial Affairs – If you're already having not-so-friendly talks with people from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), it's definitely time to have your rights protected by a tax attorney.

A tax attorney will be able to review your financial affairs and inform you of what you've done right and where you've gone wrong. More than that, a tax attorney will also be able to execute the necessary changes to reduce or completely eliminate whatever penalties or sentence the IRS is intent on inflicting on you.

Structure You're Financial Affairs – If you're lucky enough not to be cursed yet with a thoroughly intimidating chat with the IRS, why wait for that to happen when you can hire a tax attorney to make that possibility vanish completely. A tax attorney will be able to structure your financial affairs accordingly and ensure that the IRS will have all praises of how a dedicated tax payer you are. Don't delude yourself into thinking that just because you're a self-employed professional or a regular employee you're automatically out of the IRS' list of potential delinquent taxpayers. Sadly, everyone – and we do mean everyone – is in the IRS' radar.

Save Time with the Help of a Tax Attorney – Time is gold for all of us, and working with a tax attorney will ensure that you have more time than usual to pursue whatever interests you have. Firstly, having a tax attorney manage your financial affairs together with an accountant will ensure that you won't waste any time in the future solving tax problems. Secondly, if you are already involved with a tax case, a tax attorney will shorten the needed time in resolving your case in court. Thirdly, you won't have to spend a portion of your time to talk with the IRS because a tax attorney will do all the talking for you.

Save Money on Taxes - When your finances and tax history resemble a labyrinth, some unsavory personalities may take advantage of that and file heaps of lawsuits against you to force you to pay for fees and penalties that you don't truly deserve. With a tax attorney to help you out, however, you can be sure that the truth will come out and you won't have to pay anything that you shouldn't have been charged with in the first place. Secondly, even if you did unintentionally commit a mistake with your taxes, a tax attorney will be able to smooth things

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out so that you won't have to pay as much as you should. Thirdly, a tax attorney will enlighten you about the different options you can avail to make yourself eligible for more tax deductions. Don't risk encountering tax trouble and suffering more than you should because you don't have the guidance of a tax attorney. Contact a tax attorney now to discuss your situation. Life is always better without IRS trouble!



Chapter 3.1 - A Tax Attorney Can Help Review and Structure Your Financial Affairs

For some people, it's easier to make money than knowing when and how much of it is needed to pay to the IRS. If this is your problem as well, you definitely need to hire a tax attorney. A tax attorney will provide you much needed aid and allow you to make even more money without having to worry about getting fined for it.

What Happens When a Tax Attorney Review Your Financial Affairs Improving Your Balance Sheet – It's possible that you're paying more on taxes than you should simply because you're filing inaccurate balance sheets. Your tax attorney can work with your accountant and ensure that your balance sheet is reporting valid and accurate figures. Together, they'll be able to determine which assets should be listed as their market value, which liabilities should be under short-term and long-term, and so forth.

Know If You're Doing Something Wrong – It's possible that you're already doing something wrong with your taxes, and that the IRS is on their way to confront you with it. A tax attorney will be able to detect warning signs regarding tax mistakes and rectify them immediately.

Paying Exactly What You Owe – Don't you want to know just how many deductions you're presently eligible for? Don't you wish to know how to become eligible for even more deductions? With a tax attorney to help you out, you'll be able to see your tax rates reduce significantly...in a legal manner, of course!

Which is Which for Self-Employed Individuals – Paying taxes is a convoluted affair for self-employed individuals because they're both employees and employers in certain aspects. A tax attorney can help them out by ensuring that they're paying taxes that are truly due to them.

Keeping Updated – A good tax attorney is constantly updated with the latest changes on tax laws, and they can make helpful suggestions in restructuring your financial affairs so that you won't get on the wrong side of the law.

What Happens When a Tax Attorney Structures Your Financial Affairs?

Understanding Your Balance Sheet – Assets represent the biggest headache in balance sheets, and your tax attorney can help you report them accurately so that you won't get into any trouble with the IRS.

Filing the Right Income and Paying on Time – Know which tax forms you should be using and how to file your business income accordingly. People who are just starting their out with their careers or businesses often find it difficult to distinguish which expenses qualify as operating and deductible costs. A tax attorney will also serve as your personal alarm clock to ensure that you pay your taxes on time regularly to avoid being fined with penalties and interest charges.

What Tax Year Is It? – There is always a right time to do something, and a tax attorney will ensure that you choose the right tax year for your business. It's never too early or too late to hire a tax attorney to manage your financial affairs. Contact one now, and never have recurring nightmares about the IRS.

Chapter 3.2 - You're Tax Affairs and the Help of a Tax Attorney

Everybody knows that taxation laws are more complicated than the laws of physics. As such, you'll need an expert to guide you through the ever twisting paths of taxation and obtain financial freedom safely. These experts come in the guise of tax attorneys, and it's important that you find one who's capable and trustworthy to handle your tax affairs.

The Confidentiality Agreement between You and Your Tax Attorney

If you're already having problems handling your taxes, you definitely need to hire a tax attorney as soon as possible. Unlike accountants, your tax attorney cannot be forced by the government to testify against you. As such, you can feel completely free to relay to your tax attorney all your difficulties regarding your tax affairs.

In these cases, your tax attorney is your only hope. You can never disclose anything to your loved ones as they can be compelled by law to repeat the things you've said to them in court.

Starting Out with a Tax Attorney

If you're only starting out with your career or company, you can already make steps this early to pave the way to a future that's free from any tax problems. Firstly, a tax attorney will instruct you on how to compute the correct taxable portion of your income. Afterwards, he will tell you which forms you should obtain from the necessary government department and how to file for the deductions you're qualified for. Thirdly, he will advise you if you're better off paying your taxes on a monthly or annual basis.

Settling Unpaid Taxes

Many taxpayers belatedly find out that they owe more taxes to the IRS than they realize. If that's your situation as well, a tax attorney will be able to help you out in explaining to the IRS why you were unable to file and/or pay for those taxes. Negotiating with the IRS can be a thoroughly draining experience for anyone, so it's always better to have a tax attorney to speak on your behalf.

Once you and your tax attorney have explained your situation satisfactorily, you will have several options at your disposal to choose from on how to settle your unpaid taxes. The best option depends on how much money you owe, how much deduction you can hope to qualify for, the facts surrounding your case, and just how persuasive your tax attorney is.

Filing for Bankruptcy

Only a few people realize that they have the right to file for bankruptcy regarding taxes. A tax attorney can effectively inform you if your present financial situation allows you to file for bankruptcy. A case has to be prepared for presentation in court if you wish to file for bankruptcy. Documents will have to be submitted, and you may be required to testify regarding certain facts

pertaining to your financial and tax affairs. It's virtually impossible to handle a bankruptcy case alone as you'll need to talk to different people from various government and non-government departments, some of which may only be accessible to tax attorneys and not to civilians like you.

Chapter 3.3 - Save Money with the Help of a Tax Attorney

As the whole country is experiencing economic hardship, it's unsurprising that many individuals and business owners are desperate to find legal means in which they can earn more money and lessen their expenses. One of such ways available to you is by hiring a tax attorney.

Save on Unpaid Taxes

There are many reasons why individuals and businesses alike end up becoming delinquent taxpayers. Failing to file your income tax returns will neither allow you to escape you so desire from your obligations to the government. Once the total amount of tax due has been computed, you might be surprised with just how much you owe to the IRS. It's in these cases that having a tax attorney assisting you in handling your affairs will come in extremely handy. Firstly, they'll determine if the computation provided by the IRS is valid and accurate.

Secondly, they'll determine if there can be other deductions you're eligible for to further lower the total amount due. Thirdly, tax attorneys may be able to persuade the government representative handling your case to decrease the amount even more if you promise to repay everything in a short period of time.

Save on Penalties

Penalties are charged to you by the IRS if you make mistakes regarding your income report, fail to file your income on time or not filing it at all, and if you don't pay within the time allotted to you. Tax attorneys can either diminish or completely eliminate the penalties charged to you depending on how much you owe, how long it has been since the error has been committed, and how soon you can provide repayment.

Save on Interest Charges

Like penalties, interest charges are also charged to you if you've committed – even if it's unintentional – any error or violation regarding your taxes. These interest charges can however be reduced or absolutely waived depending again on how much you owe, how much time has elapsed since the violation had occurred, your ability to repay what you owe, and other pertinent facts regarding your case.

Save by Allowable Deductions

Tax attorneys can clue you in on which allowable deductions are you already qualified for and you can immediately use on your next income tax return. Furthermore, tax attorneys will provide information as to what's required from you in order to take advantage of more deductions and continue to do so.

Save by Determining the Correct Amount of Your Taxable Income

Knowing what exactly to include and exclude from your income statement is as easy and difficult as distinguishing right from wrong. And in this case, it's not a spiritual entity but tax lawyers that can best help you solve your dilemma.

Save on Attorney Fees

Yes, even the fees that tax attorneys are charging you with can be waived or settled by the other party as long as the outcome is at least partially positive.

There are other ways for you to save on money with the help of a tax attorney, so contact one right now and get your tax problems dissolved with a discount!

Chapter 3.4 - Save Your Sanity with The Help of a Tax Attorney

Taxes and how to work around it can really be quite a complex matter to deal with. Not everyone is equipped with the proper information about it. This somehow explains why a lot of people, at some point, encounter misunderstandings with the IRS.

Getting out of any problem with the IRS can really be quite difficult. Whether or not it was intentional that you missed something on your taxes, the IRS will still consider you just like anyone who takes his taxes for granted. Your reasons, no matter how valid they may be, will always be viewed as absurd excuses. Of course, you would want to avoid to get to this point as much as possible. If there is something you can do early on to avoid any problem, you surely would be willing to do it.

One way to maintain your relationship with the IRS clean is by soliciting the help of a tax attorney. You must remember that the IRS deals with all types of taxes, from inheritance taxes to personal income taxes. There are simply lots of loopholes that you would want to watch out for. A tax attorney is the most expert person that you can go to when it comes to these matters.

However, you must make sure that you really do hire an expert one. Your tax attorney will be working on your behalf. Thus, choose someone who you think can represent you and your situation well. Check their background and see if they really have enough experience.

Your goal is to find someone who will do everything for you after you have given them all necessary information. In the end, you should not be worrying about anything. Most people have the notion that employing a tax attorney may cost a lot of money. Yes, it can be true. However, if you consider how much they can help you with your transactions with the IRS and how much they can look for all the benefits that will eventually save you money, you will realize that finding one is all worth it. Do not wait until you encounter any problem before you hire one. Tax issues become more and more complex through the years. The best way to find the right tax attorney is by getting recommendations from people you know. They can give you objective assessments as to how their tax lawyer has helped them. You might even want to ask those who have had major

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problems with taxes but were able to get through it because of their tax lawyers. However, although they are recommended by someone else, you might still want to do a background check on your own. Check on education, work experience, affiliation with certain law firms, track records, and other pertinent information.

The bottom line in all these is that you want to get someone who will take care of your interests and who will go through the entire process with you. The best tax lawyer will advise you to do what is right while protecting your situation.

<http://www.lawcore.com/taxes-and-the-irs/tax-attorney-lawyer.html>

<http://smallbusiness.findlaw.com/biz/hire-business-lawyer/taxattorney-top-ten.html>

<http://public.findlaw.com/taxes/get-tax-help/hiring-tax-attorney.html>

Save Time with the Help of a Tax Attorney

In economic and financial equations, savings can be achieved either by reducing costs or expenses and increasing the amount of money you set aside for the future. In the world of taxation, however, money is not only the precious commodity involved: there's time as well, and for you to save on time, there are activities that you have to delegate to your tax attorney in order to have more time to dedicate to more important and enjoyable activities.

REDUCE TIME SPENT ON PORING OVER DOCUMENTS

When you're experiencing any difficulties with the IRS or taxation in general, your best recourse is always by providing official documents that can prove your innocence. Knowing which these documents are, knowing where they can be obtained, and how the data from these documents can be processed, are not easily accomplished without the help of a tax attorney.

Secondly, no matter how many taxation textbooks you borrow or buy, it's still possible that there are a few rules or laws you won't comprehend in spite of exerting all your effort to do so. In this world, there are just some things that are only decipherable to the IRS and tax attorneys.

REDUCE TIME SPENT ON FILING INCOME TAX RETURNS

Determining the correct amounts for total gross income, taxable income, total expenses, and other financial data is a challenge to most people. Finding the right form can even be a

nightmare for some. With a tax attorney, however, you'll be able to ensure that you not only pay the right amount to the IRS, but that you do so on time as well.

REDUCE TIME SPENT WITH THE IRS

If you thought that meeting with the IRS will only take a moment of your precious time, think again. The IRS is rarely satisfied with a mere day's chat. If you can't afford to spend a huge amount of time providing information to the IRS, hire a tax attorney and let him act as your mouthpiece.

INCREASE TIME SPENT TAKING CARE OF YOUR BUSINESS

Tax troubles can effectively affect the operation and profit-making abilities of your business when you're forced to delegate important activities to your subordinates and be absent in important events. With a tax attorney to handle your affairs however, you can continue managing your business the way you've always done.

INCREASE TIME SPENT WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

Tax trouble can be terribly time-consuming. Not only that, but it also has the power of making you feel absolutely stressed and unable to concentrate on other matters, even to the point of neglecting your loved ones. Hiring a tax attorney however will enable you to continue leading a normal life in spite of whatever tax problems troubling you right now. As time is under no one's control, it's up to you to ensure that you manage it in the best of your capabilities because you won't be given a second chance afterwards. And when it comes to taxes, hiring a tax attorney will be your best solution to eliminate wasted time.

Chapter 3.5 - A Tax Attorney Can Help Settle Your Liability

Even the most assiduous taxpayer will still sometimes find himself burdened with various tax problems. Unfortunately for these individuals, having a clean slate and the truth may not be enough to get them free from the target list of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Whatever financial obligations you still owe to the IRS, these can be competently handled by a tax attorney.

5 Ways to Pay off Liabilities with the Help of a Tax Attorney

Talking and pleading will unfortunately get you nowhere with the tax collectors. Only the voice of money will be heard and you need to set the right tone for it with the help of a tax attorney.

Installment Plan – Your tax attorney can work with the IRS to negotiate an installment plan for you and settle unpaid taxes in a way that won't put any pressure against you. A tax attorney can also clue you in on what conditions you must meet in order to qualify for paying by installment. It's generally better if you and your tax attorney are able to work out an installment plan that will allow you to pay all the money you owe in 5 years or less.

Look for the OIC – That, however, doesn't stand for officer-in-charge but rather for offer in compromise. A tax attorney who sizes up your financial situation may suggest that you apply for an OIC. In this case, you may be qualified to pay only for a portion of your total liabilities, depending on what your tax attorney and the IRS agrees to. Filing for the Big B – At times, filing for the Big B or bankruptcy is the only way out of your current fix. Unlike other options, you won't need to submit heaps of documents to prove your eligibility. What your tax attorney has to do instead is prove by word, actions, and on paper to the judge handling your case that the only remedy for your situation is to declare yourself bankrupt and unable to pay any taxes you owe to the government.

Presently Incapacitated – Your financial situation may be dire for the time being only, and if so, your tax attorney could suggest that you request for the IRS to change your status to "not currently collectible". As such, the IRS will continue to bill you the taxes you owe but will not press to make any payments until you're able to make them.

Partial Payment Installment Plan – If your situation permits, your tax attorney can also make things better for you by persuading the IRS to reduce your total liabilities into a manageable amount. Moreover, this amount will be paid by installment to lessen the burden on your shoulders. For this option, a tax attorney will begin by making sure that you submit all the necessary documents and help you write an effective letter of request. Your tax attorney can also ensure that you make the payments in your preferred method and do so on time. Being presently unable to pay off your liabilities shouldn't be reason enough to put you into jail, but only a tax attorney can make that possible for you.

Chapter 4 - Things to Do before Hiring a Tax Attorney

If you already have a specific tax attorney in mind that you wish to handle your case, you need to make sure that he or she will be equally delighted in taking you on as a client. The first way to ensure a warm reception from your future tax attorney is by preparing well for your first meeting.

What to Do or Bring before Hiring a Tax Attorney

Make an outline draft detailing your work experience or business history. Once you've arranged then in the correct sequence, make the outline more detailed, providing contact details and information regarding your job description. This will help your tax attorney understand you better and how you came to be where you are now – wherever that may be.

Collect all the income tax returns you have saved and see if you've missed out on a month or a year. If you lack anything, contact the necessary department to procure a photocopy of the tax returns that you lack.

If you already have an idea of what the IRS may have against you, write it down then provide your own reasons as to why the IRS may have may an incorrect judgment about your financial affairs. Whether you're right or wrong will depend on your tax attorney.

If you are running a business, provide all the financial documents you have regarding the business from its first year of operation till the present. This includes but is not limited to balance sheets, cash flow statements, income statements, journals and ledgers, and profit analyses. If you are running a partnership or corporation, you can also submit documents pertaining to the division of profit and stockholder membership.

Business owners must also submit documentary proof that their companies are legal enterprises and possess all the required licenses. If you have previously owned businesses, submit all the financial papers and licenses that you have from its first year of operation till the last. If you regularly obtain copies of your bank statement, submit these as well to your tax attorney. If you receive any correspondence from the IRS or any government department regarding your business, taxpaying responsibilities, or financial affairs, submit all of these to your tax attorney.

Any correspondence related to your business or financial affairs must also be prepared and submitted to your tax attorney. As your tax attorney will only give these all a cursory glance, you

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can make things easier for him by underlining the main topic of each letter or writing down a sentence or two to summarize the contents of each correspondence or document. Make sure that you arrange them in chronological order as well.

Make a list of lost documents that may be pertinent to your case and provide details for each of them such as the sender, the possible date you've received the document or letter, and the content.

Prepare a list of people and companies that your tax attorney may have the need to talk and their contact numbers as well. Besides each name, state the reason/s why your tax attorney might wish to talk to them.

Create a diagram or chart to provide your tax attorney with a visual explanation of how your business operates or how you receive income every month. Provide all the links necessary to your distributors, suppliers, advertisers and other affiliates.

Do what you can to straighten out your financial affairs and completing the necessary documents before hiring a tax attorney. This will save you both time and money and serve as an auspicious start for your business relationship.

Chapter 5 - Hiring a Tax Attorney Earlier or Later

If you're a quandary because you don't know which course of action is better, you should understand that both choices are neither right nor wrong, and that what you should concentrate on is determining which choice is most ideal for your personality, budget, and needs.

Just in Case - Pros and Cons of Hiring a Tax Attorney Early in the Game

When hiring a tax attorney even if there's no actual or demanding need to do so, make sure that you're hiring a tax attorney with specialized knowledge in tax planning.

Advantages:

There's no pressure on you to choose a tax attorney. You can review their credentials thoroughly and ensure that you'll make a smart decision. A tax attorney will be able to review and structure

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your financial affairs and do so in a regular manner to prevent you from getting into any trouble with the Internal Review System (IRS). A tax attorney will also be able to head off any other legal trouble so that you can concentrate fully on your business or career.

Disadvantages:

Hired early in the game, a tax attorney will have to be employed in a regular basis. As such, lawyer fees might have to be a part of your monthly budget. It's possible that you won't have any need for a tax planner at all if you're able to ensure that you can pay your dues on time and completely. If you're unlucky enough to hire a fraudulent tax attorney, you'll be giving him complete license to restructure your financial affairs to his advantage and yours. As such, instead of saving money, you'll end up paying more than you should because of your tax attorney's penchant for misrepresenting your income or overpricing your taxes.

Just in Time – Pros and Cons of Hiring a Tax Attorney Late in the Game

If you choose to hire an attorney only when the need arises, make sure that you hire an attorney with specialized knowledge and sufficient experience in handling tax controversies and presenting cases at court.

Advantages:

You won't have to pay any lawyer fees until you're certain that you do need to avail the services of one. You will learn to be self-reliant in handling your own tax problems. Taking care of your tax problems by yourself will also prevent you from being put in the mercy of a potentially dishonest tax attorney.

Disadvantages:

If you postpone hiring a tax attorney to the last money, you could be making the decision one second too late, and not even the best tax attorney will be able to get you out of trouble. Declining to be proactive and waiting for trouble to arise could lead to bigger costs if you're unlucky. A late decision can cause you to pay for larger penalties and interest expenses as well as more expensive lawyer fees.

There may be pressure on you to choose a tax attorney quickly, and you might consequently end up choosing the wrong one. Whether or not you do hire a tax attorney earlier or later, as long as

you find a capable tax attorney to handle your case, there is no due cause for concern. Good luck on making the right choice!

Chapter 6 - Where to Look for a Tax Attorney

Every taxpayer – individual and corporate both – will surely benefit from the services of a tax attorney. With the help of a tax attorney, a client will be able to save both time and money through their taxes. If you are interested in consulting with a tax attorney, here are several suggestions for places where you can start searching.

Tips for Where to Look for a Tax Attorney

Asking for Referrals – The best and sometimes easiest way to look for a tax attorney is by asking your family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances for any referrals they can give you. Of course, make sure that you're asking someone whose judgment you trust. That way, you can rest assured whoever they'll be referring will also be someone reliable and trustworthy.

Browsing the Telephone Directory – Just look under the attorney, lawyer, or legal services category and you're sure to find various advertisements regarding tax attorneys. Of course, make sure that the tax attorney is residing in your state for easier communication.

Local Government Unit (LGU) – Your local government unit will also be able to provide you with information regarding tax attorneys residing or practicing in your area. This is also the best way for you to search for a tax attorney if you're operating in a budget, and you're hoping to get free legal advice. Just find the help desk in your local government office, inform them of your desire to find a local attorney and remember to state that you're hoping for someone who might be willing to work – mostly – for free.

Law Schools – Many people are unaware that law schools are great sources for tax attorneys or any kind of lawyer for that matter. These schools won't refer you to graduating students but rather to those who have already graduated and are already doing well for themselves. If you're

on a budget, they can also refer you to recent graduates who have yet to shine and are therefore not able to charge high rates at present.

Lawyer Associations – There are various lawyer associations that have been established all over the nation and all of them will probably be willing to provide you with referrals for tax attorneys from their own groups. To ascertain that you'll a smarter choice, consider and review the goals of the association then see if they jive with yours.

Go Online – The Internet is always a reliable and highly valuable source of information about anything under the sun, and tax attorneys are definitely included in that list. You can use any search engine to search for tax attorneys. Results will mostly feature law firms which offer various legal services. As such, you'll have to enter the site first and find the appropriate page for tax attorneys. Most sites don't list the rates that these attorneys will be charging you so you'll probably still be required to call and schedule a meeting with them in person.

Make sure that you have at least five candidates to choose from before deciding which tax attorney you wish to hire. Take your time choosing because this can greatly affect your taxpaying future.

Chapter 7 - How to Choose a Tax Attorney

The selection process for hiring a tax attorney should never be hurried, as your final choice can greatly affect your financial future. If the tax attorney of your choice doesn't have the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to handle your case, you may not only lose your business or job, but you may also end up being bankrupt and in jail. That's the worst case scenario, of course, but it can just as easily happen to you if you're not careful.

Tips on How to Choose a Tax Attorney

Consider the Source – If you are acting on referrals, do consider the source first. Is the person making the referral someone you've known for a long time? Is he trustworthy and capable of making accurate judgment on people? What are his reasons for recommending the tax attorney?

How to Work With a Tax Attorney

Has he had actual and personal dealings with the tax attorney in the past? What was the outcome? If you are basing your decisions on news reports, advertisements, or testimonials, take the information you've gathered with a grain of salt. Find additional evidence to support your conclusions before making any choices.

Experience – It's always important that your tax attorney have more than adequate experience. Try obtaining a list of clients that the tax attorney had previous dealings with and see if all his clients had been satisfied with his work. See as well if they have any complaints that you should know about. Also, ask him how long has he been practicing in general, and how much time has he put in handling tax cases. Ask him about the number of tax cases he had handled throughout his career and what's the success-loss ratio.

Education – Naturally, your tax attorney must be fully licensed to practice law. Secondly, he must have specialized training or education in handling tax cases. Additional training or education must always be backed up with hard evidence, and make sure that you verify whatever certificates he submits. As tax laws may differ from state to state, it's also important that your tax attorney has the required experience and knowledge of the tax laws in YOUR state or wherever your case is being held. It's also better if you can find tax attorneys who have secondary degrees in fields like accounting and business administration as these are the areas that are often linked with taxation.

Other Skills – Will it help if your tax attorney has specialized knowledge in e-commerce? Will it give enable your tax attorney to understand your needs better if he speaks another language or is familiar with your culture?

Rates – Lastly, don't forget to ask about how much the tax attorney will be charging you with. Rates charged by tax attorneys can be anywhere between several hundreds to several thousands of dollars depending on your case and your lawyer's reputation. In the end, your list should contain approximately three to five candidates. These "finalists" should be the only ones you'll meet and consult with. Whoever matches your personality best is probably the ideal tax attorney for you!

Chapter 8 - How to Cooperate with Your Tax Attorney

The outcome or solution to your tax difficulties doesn't completely rely on your tax attorney. You have your part to take care of as well: you have your own set of responsibilities, tasks, and goals to accomplish in order to ensure that the end result will go your way.

Tips on How to Cooperate with Your Tax Attorney

Always be on time for your meetings, take copious notes of everything discussed in these meetings, and make sure that you've accomplished whatever your tax attorney requests for you to do before showing up for your meeting.

You have to be completely honest with your tax attorney. You need not be afraid of disclosing any information about yourself as your tax attorney cannot be impelled by the courts to speak against you. If you have any doubts, suggestions, or ideas regarding your situation, voice them out immediately to your tax attorney.

Make a list of all the important papers you remember making or signing since the start of your business or your job. If you remember losing any important papers, take the steps to obtain copies of it or having them remade so that your tax attorney will be in full possession of all the pertinent documents for your case.

If you are uncertain about the significance of a particular document, bring it all the same and let your tax attorney make the verdict. If you are unsure about the ins and outs of computing your business income, it's better to provide your tax attorney with all the papers that he needs as well as a list of people and their respective contact information that he can talk to in order to better understand the structure of your business. If you and your tax attorney are working on a deadline, do offer to lighten the load on his shoulders and ask if there's anything you can do to facilitate the process. Inform him as well of possible roadblocks that might be caused of certain mistakes you've made in the past so that he'll be able to negotiate better on the table.

Your tax attorney will have better chances of winning at the negotiation table if you bare all your cards to him and hide nothing. Remember that your lawyer is bound by law to keep everything you say to him confidential so there's no worry that anything you let slip will leak out as well.

Don't withhold any important information about your financial affairs from your tax attorney in the hope that he'll be able to perform a miracle for you. Life doesn't work that way. Your tax attorney's job is to undo your tax mess and not to lie or perform a criminal act on your behalf.

Cooperating with your tax attorney can be easy if both of you are willing to make compromises for each other. As long as you and your attorney constantly remember that gaining positive results is a win-win situation for both of you, everything will surely work out just fine.

Chapter 8.1 - How to Help a Tax Attorney in Assessing Your Legal Situation

Before your tax attorney can devise any strategy to get you out of trouble, he or she needs to learn about every tiny detail regarding your case. Only when he's in possession of all of the facts can he finally find a way to resolve your case.

Tips on Helping a Tax Attorney in Assessing Your Legal Situation

Answering a Questionnaire – Before your first meeting with your tax attorney, his office may send you a questionnaire to answer so that they'll have an idea on what they're being expected to do for your case. Answer the questionnaire completely and don't hesitate to ask any questions if something is unclear to you.

Be Honest – Honesty is the best policy in this case. Unlike tax preparers and accountants, tax attorneys are compelled by law to keep all your dealings confidential. As such, you have absolutely nothing to be afraid of. Whatever you have to say will remain for your tax attorney's ears only. Withholding facts from your tax attorney may create loopholes in your defense, and this will spell great trouble for you in the long run.

Documentation – Official documents and correspondence are what the courts will be using against you, and it's also what your tax attorney could be using for you. As such, you need to show your tax attorney all these documents as this will help him build a case for you. He'll be able to know which documents the court is liable to use against you, and prepare a counterattack accordingly.

Strengths and Weaknesses – Although your tax attorney will certainly have his own way of finding out the strengths and weaknesses of your case, it won't hurt if you try to determine your strong and weak spots as well.

Take out a piece of paper and determine what facets of your legal affairs are you most afraid of and what parts you believe will cause you trouble with the Internal Revenue System (IRS). To end on a positive note, once you've finished writing your weak points, consider afterwards what your strengths are.

Key Roles – List down all the people you can think of whom you are fairly certain have a direct or indirect link to your tax case. Next to their names, list down possible contributions they can make, and where they can be reached.

Create a Flowchart – Write down all the events or steps you've taken that directly and indirectly caused you to be in your current position. Once you've written down all the events you can remember, arrange them in chronological order. Afterwards, try ranking them according to their significance so your tax attorney would have an idea of its bearing on your case.

Listen and Follow – Lastly, listen to what your tax attorney has to say and do what must be done. If you don't fully cooperate with your tax attorney, he might end up assessing your legal situation inaccurately, and this might cost you in the long run. It takes two to resolve tax troubles – you and your tax attorney – so keep that in mind whenever you're meeting with your tax attorney.

Chapter 8.2 - How to Help with a Tax Attorney in Drafting

Legal Papers for You and All Documentation

For most individuals and businesses, it's impossible for them to draft papers or take care of other means of documentation alone. More often than not, they need the help of a professional as the process can be quite time-consuming and costly. If you're having problems with your taxes, and you have various documentation needs to meet, what you truly need is a tax attorney.

Tips on How to Help Your Tax Attorney in Drafting Legal Papers and Other Documentation

Prior to meeting with your tax attorney, you should collect all important papers directly or indirectly linked to your tax case. These papers include but are not limited to financial statements such as balance sheets, cash flow and income statements, official and unofficial correspondence through the post, fax, or email, and phone conversation transcription if you have them.

Time – If you receive any notice or warning regarding certain legal papers or documents that you have to submit, you need to inform your tax attorney of this matter ahead of time. Although your tax attorney is capable of completing your papers at the last minute, why wait for that and place additional pressure on your tax attorney? Be considerate of your tax attorney by informing him ahead of time of all your documentation needs. Giving your tax attorney sufficient time to prepare will also ensure that he'll get the job done more effectively and efficiently.

Objectives – If you wish your tax attorney to draft legal papers for your personal use – albeit still tax-related – make sure that you inform him of the purpose the papers will serve and what you're hoping to achieve when they do get drafted. Providing this information to your tax attorney will help him draft legal papers that are specifically designed to help you attain your objectives whatever they may be. Letting them know about your objectives and the papers' purpose beforehand will also enable them to review your decision and inform you ahead of time if there's anything that you're doing wrong. People – Not all legal papers for taxation are meant for the Internal Revenue System.

It's possible that you may also have to send certain papers to your former employers, employees, or partners to see your case through. In this instance, it's imperative that you clue your tax attorney in on what kind of attitude or reception they can expect once they've finished drafting your legal papers. Describe to them in detail what the characteristics of these people are so that your tax attorney will use the best way to communicate effectively with them.

Cost – Certain legal papers require you to pay money for them to be completed. If this is the case for you, make sure that you pay these expenses promptly to lighten the burden on your tax attorney's shoulders.

Tax attorneys are certainly capable of drafting all the legal papers you need but they can't do it alone as well. They'll need your cooperation, time, and effort so be sure to offer those in abundance if you wish for the matter to be quickly resolved.

Chapter - 8.3 - How to Help a Tax Attorney in Negotiating for You

Negotiating on someone else's behalf is always difficult even for professionals like tax attorneys. As a client, you also have your own duties and responsibilities to meet in order to help your tax attorney negotiate your case more efficiently and effectively.

Tips on How to Help a Tax Attorney in Negotiating for You

Have Realistic Expectations – You will only hinder your tax attorney instead of helping him if you tend to have unrealistic expectations regarding your case and his role in it. Yes, tax attorneys can perform miracles once in a while if they're extremely skilled or lucky and if they have all the requisites of an easy case, but they can only perform these in a limited capacity. Simply put, don't expect your tax attorney to place their job on the line for you. They can only negotiate for you as long as what you're asking them is legal.

Providing Information – Information and having it in abundance is one of the keys to effective negotiating. While your tax attorney will certainly have numerous sources for information, there are some facts that he can only be enlightened with if you personally volunteer them. You should always give valid, accurate, and complete information to your tax attorney. Keeping certain truths to yourself will only weaken your tax attorney's position on the negotiation table, and that's definitely something you don't want to happen!

Get Your Priorities Straight – Ask yourself what's the most important thing for you regarding your tax case. If you're allowed to win only one aspect of your case, what do you hope it will be? Determining the answer to this will provide your tax attorney with clear cut goals on the negotiation table. Although he'll certainly continue working and negotiating for the best outcome, when it's obvious that his discussion is going nowhere, he'll simply cut back on his losses and focus on at least attaining the most important goal for you.

Money Talks – Yes, there are still fees to be paid – and all of these are legitimately charged fees, mind you – if you wish to facilitate the negotiation for your case. As such, it's better that you provide your tax attorney with an approximate budget by stating how much you're willing to spend in order to get the tax case resolved. Knowing what budget he'll be working with will also enable your tax attorney to concentrate on strategies that won't cost you more than you can

afford. Of course, having a smaller budget may prolong the negotiation process but that doesn't mean that your case is doomed to fail. The process will just get a bit tougher, that's all.

Assignments – Lastly, if your tax attorney assigns anything to you, the least you can do is finish your task promptly. It's possible that even with all the help you've provided, your tax attorney still fails in negotiating for you. When this happens, this may be due to either of two things: yours is a genuinely hopeless case, or your tax lawyer doesn't have all the essential requirements for effective negotiating.

Chapter 8.4 - Informing Your Tax Attorney about Your Business Income

Your tax attorney won't be able to adequately review and structure your financial affairs if he doesn't understand where your money's coming from and how it gets to your bank account from your business.

Only you and only you possess the needed answers to all the questions your tax attorney has about your business income so if you wish him to help you, you need to help him understand your case first.

Tips on Making Your Tax Attorney Understand Your Business Income

Source of Business Income – Where do you get your money? What's your primary source of income? Does the income from your primary line of business go to you alone or is it shared with your partners? Do you have any secondary sources of income? Are you receiving pension, alimony, or support from any other person? Have you recently received an inheritance or other types of donation?

Products and Services – What is your main line of business? You can obtain additional discount from the government depending on the type of product or service that your business is offering. Make sure that you also inform your tax attorney about the rates you're charging and any other secondary products or services.

Business Costs – List down all the costs of your business for the last six months. Doing so will help your tax attorney determine which costs are fixed or variable and which ones can be

considered as operating costs and therefore deducted from your taxable income. License fees may also be considered as allowable expenses so be sure to inform your tax attorney about it if you've paid for them recently.

Accounts Payable – There are certain financial obligations that an Internal Revenue System (IRS) agent will find excusable and allow you to pay off first before requiring you to pay taxes. To take advantage of this, list down the amounts of money you owe to other people and let your tax attorney determine which of them can help you effectively reduce the amount of taxes due.

Accounts Receivable – Money that other people owe you for services rendered may be considered as part of your business income. Determining the correct answer to this will require you to inform your tax attorney once more about this particular detail regarding your business income.

How the Business is Being Run – The government also offers certain deductions if you're able to convincingly prove that your business is running according to the standards set by the government. These deductions will ultimately cause your business to have a smaller taxable income than usual.

Withdrawals – If you've made any withdrawal from your business, this may affect your financial affairs in general and your business income to be more specific. Understanding the nitty-gritty of your business income can be a challenge to your tax attorney if you don't follow the SOP on reporting your income to the necessary authorities. In this case, the least you can do is cooperate with your tax attorney fully by answering all the questions he asks and volunteering additional information that you deem pertinent to your case.

Chapter 8.5 - How to Have Productive Meetings with Your Tax Attorney

To eliminate chances of wasting precious time and money, you should always make an extra effort to keep your meetings with your tax attorney productive. Exerting such effort will also impel your tax attorney to do the same.

Tips on How to Have Productive Meetings with Your Tax Attorney

Always be on time for meetings. Punctuality is the key to productivity. Provide your lawyer with all your contact details as well as your daily schedule so that he may be able to reach you no matter where you are or who you're with. When you leave for a meeting with your tax attorney, make sure that you don't bring any extra baggage with you at the meeting. Problems at home should stay at home in order for you to concentrate more and better on the issues at hand. Remember that complete focus is one of the essential requirements for productive meetings.

Rely on your personal judgment as well on your tax attorney's own explanations to determine his or her preferred working style. Both of you must be willing to adjust accordingly and meet halfway so you can work better together. Get to know your tax attorney well and do ask him pointed questions about his working style.

Always bring all the necessary documents to your meetings, even those that you aren't too sure about. In any case, let your tax attorney be the judge of that. It's better to have brought more documents than necessary than bringing less.

Always take down notes. Even if your tax attorney's legal transcriber is taking notes as well, doing so by your own is still different and possibly even more helpful because you can also include your thoughts on the subject, thoughts that the legal transcriber is definitely not privy to. If you feel that you won't be able to take down complete notes, just make sure that you write down any ideas, questions, or reminders that come to your mind at least then ask for a copy of the transcriber's notes instead.

If your tax attorney asks you to accomplish anything for your next meeting, make sure that you do so. Take note of it on your calendar if you must. Inform your tax attorney immediately if you're having difficulties accomplishing your objective.

If you're not meeting with your tax attorney and you incidentally obtain or realize information that you feel is relevant to your case or something that you feel which your tax attorney will find even marginally helpful, contact your lawyer immediately or send a detailed message to his office.

How to Work With a Tax Attorney

Lastly, listen and follow your tax attorney's advice. There's no point in hiring him if you only listen to what you want to hear then ignore the rest! Productivity in this case will depend on joint effort, and for that reason, both of you should be willing and able to work hard and cooperate with each other in handling your case. The more productive your tag team with your tax attorney is, the sooner you'll get your tax problems solved!

Conclusion:

The Role of a Tax Attorney – Tips from Hiring to Cooperating to Firing

Here is a comprehensive guide for you to determine the ideal tax attorney to handle your case.

Hiring a Tax Attorney Earlier or Later

The best time to hire a tax attorney depends entirely up to you. If you hire a tax attorney earlier than needed, your financial affairs will be put into order and consequently prevent you from getting into trouble with IRS. Hiring a tax attorney only when needed is a practical solution if you're working on a tight budget.

Where to Look for a Tax Attorney

The Internet, lawyer associations, law schools, and even the telephone directories are great places to start searching for prospective tax attorneys.

How to Choose a Tax Attorney

Your first concern should always be experience. It's better to hire a tax attorney who has had sufficient experience in the past handling cases just like yours so that he'll already know what and what not to do. Make sure of course that the previous cases you're studying all happened in the same state as yours since taxation laws vary across the nation. Your second concern should be education. Determine whether your prospective tax attorney has specialized training in handling taxation cases.

Thirdly, consider how he interacts with you. Does he seem trustworthy and able to hold a secret? Does he return your calls on time? Does he get the job done quickly?

How to Cooperate with a Tax Attorney

Even though you're the client, you should still act professional towards your tax attorney. That means being punctual and honest: if you're going to be late, do try to inform your tax attorney ahead of time. Update him with any new facts you've discovered and believe to be pertinent.

How to Work With a Tax Attorney

Listen to your tax attorney because it's his advice that you're paying for. And of course, make sure that you pay on time!

When to Fire a Tax Attorney

Some people simply don't jive together even if they have both the best intentions. If you're dissatisfied with your tax attorney, try providing suggestions first. If that doesn't seem to work, you can open up and explain why you're feeling dissatisfied and clue him in on what you expect him to do as your tax attorney. It's always best that you fire your tax attorney only after his work is done. Never fire a tax attorney if he's scheduled to appear in court and do some negotiating for you as revealing your dissatisfaction can force him to compromise the truth for revenge. If you truly need to change tax attorneys in the middle of your case, make sure you do so prior to a required appearance at court and with enough time for him to prepare sufficiently. A tax attorney is always beneficial and never detrimental just as long as you can easily afford his fees. Of course, if you're in a budget, you can still find a tax attorney willing to work on your case somewhat but he'll most probably be providing free advice only and leave the rest of the work up to you.

