

THE IRS TATTLE

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"YOUR IRS WEAPON,
THE TRAVIS WATKINS SHOW"

Every Sunday from 1:00 pm- 2:00pm



"YOUR IRS WEAPON,
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Every Sunday at 4:00pm

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IRS Has Long History of Dirty Tricks by Alan Farnham

If you think the IRS's targeting of Americans for their political views is something new, think again.

Historians, tax lawyers, civil libertarians and past victims of abuse say the practice goes back to the Nixon, Johnson, Kennedy and FDR administrations, all of which reportedly used the agency as a weapon against political enemies.

The current controversy involves IRS employees targeting Tea Party and other conservative groups for audits and scrutiny. The agency has maintained that low-level employees took it upon themselves to do this. An internal report by the agency's Inspector General cited "ineffective management" as the cause. If, however, it were to be established some link existed between the Obama administration and what Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has referred to as the IRS's "thuggish abuse of power," it wouldn't be the worst—only the most recent—example of an administration using the tax service to engage in what Nixon's enemies branded "dirty tricks."

During the Clinton administration, Paula Jones, who had filed a sexual-harassment suit against President Clinton, alleged she was being audited by the IRS because of it. His-

tory has shown that it doesn't take much to land yourself on the IRS enemy list.

The 1974 Senate Watergate Report confirmed that the Nixon administration sought to use the IRS to make life miserable for a wide spectrum of political enemies including Senators George McGovern, Hubert Humphrey and Edmund Muskie. Whistleblower John Dean produced memos confirming that the Nixon administration had even considered using the IRS to go after such small game as the producer of "Millhouse: A White Comedy," a satiric film making fun of Nixon.

Travis Watkins, an attorney with offices in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla., who specializes in tax resolution cases said: "In other words, fighting with the IRS." He represents individuals and businesses at odds with the IRS and subject to its audits and investigations. Watkins tells ABC News it takes very little for a citizen to earn the Service's political enmity. He cites the case of two clients—"African-American pastors targeted for being outspoken conservative folks." For reasons best known to them, the pastors sent to the IRS "informational DVDs" they had made that were critical of the administration and of the IRS. The DVDs, he says, were

"essentially about black America, and how the IRS is part of an evil regime."

His clients, in return, received audits. A lot of pain can be inflicted, he points out, under the guise of auditing. The IRS demands in-person meetings; it subjects the persons being audited to "a paperwork blizzard." Once an audit starts, he says, the IRS wants to look into "all kinds of things," not just income and deductions. "Currently," Watkins says, referring to today's evolving IRS scandal, "people are shocked and talking about their loss of confidence. But it has always been this way. The IRS has a storied history of being bulldogs. "It has a history of blaming low-level employees for these intrusive behaviors. But with Nixon and FDR, it was clearly direction from the top: FDR used it to look into Huey Long; he used it to look back into the Hoover administration."

Don't fight the IRS alone. Let Travis W. Watkins fight on your behalf. Call our office today 405-607-1192.

To File or Not to File... There Should Be No Question

The IRS flexes its muscles against billionaire for 40 year-old tax bill. Last week an article was published that has the potential to make your blood run chill. The IRS speaks volumes in its decision to pursue collection activity against billionaire, Sumner Redstone. The IRS wants its money (including crippling penalties and interest) for a disputed tax bill that is 40 years old! The IRS wants to send a message: that they are the most powerful collection agency on the planet. Mr. Redstone started his ca-

reer on the other side of tax disputes as a lawyer for the U.S. Department of Justice. For this reason he, of all people, should know that the IRS is ruthless. In 1972 Redstone had a questionable transaction, and did not report it to the IRS. Whether it was related to business or related to family gifting has yet to be determined. The one thing that has been determined however is that the IRS has the ability to come after you forever, until you file a return. The IRS has what they call a CSED. This stands for Collec-

tion Statute Expiration Date. The CSED grants a statutory collection period. The IRS has a 10 year window, or time-clock, per period, to collect against a taxpayer for unpaid liabilities, and that 10 year ticker does not start until a return has been filed. Thus once you file a return, the IRS has 10 years in which to collect taxes for that period. The flipside to this is that until a return has been filed, either

by you, or by the IRS in the form of a Substitute for Return ("SFR"), the IRS can enforce collection activity against you for the rest of your life. Do yourself a favor – File your tax return timely; start the CSED! You may think that you can hide from the IRS forever, but hide and seek is a dangerous game to play; and you should remember that just as you can hide, they can and will continue to seek. Contact our office at 405-607-1192 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I will fight hard with the IRS so you don't have to.



A Warm Welcome to our New Financial Analyst

Cody is a Financial Analyst for the Law Offices of Travis W. Watkins, P.C. He is a former financial professional where he spent 6 years in retail banking as a Banker and Investment Representative. He graduated from St. Gregory's University in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in

Business Management with a minor in finance. His passion lies in helping educate clients about their finances and living abundantly. When he is not in the office he enjoys spending time with his wife, Miranda. If they are not in Mexico, or at the lake, or an Oklahoma State athletic event, they

can be found spending time with family and friends.



Cody Moore



Knox & Emma Watkins

Western Days 2013

FAQ Question: I am a Norman, Oklahoma business owner who has hit hard times. I have paid some, but not all, of the payroll taxes that were owed to the IRS. I need more time to pay the rest. Should I just ignore the IRS until I have the money to pay what is owed?
No. The IRS does not like to be ignored, and deciding not to communicate with the IRS can result in stiffer penalties, creating more

trouble for you. Additionally, any money that you pay the IRS for payroll taxes that continues to come due will be applied to previous payroll taxes that weren't paid and may cause you additional penalties. Thus, it is not a good idea to ignore the IRS and create your own repayment plan without sharing the details of the plan with the IRS. That said, you may not want to keep talking to the IRS agent

who is trying to get money out of you that you just don't have. There is a solution whereby you can negotiate a solution with the IRS and not have to continue talking directly with the IRS agent. You can hire a Norman tax attorney to help you through the process. A tax lawyer knows your rights and has experience negotiating with the IRS. Once the IRS has been informed that you are represented by an attorney, the

IRS agent will communicate directly with the attorney and not directly with you. For these reasons, it is important to contact an experienced Norman tax lawyer if you are behind on your payroll taxes. For more information, we encourage you to contact our Oklahoma tax lawyers today at 800-721-7054 and to read our FREE book, The Ultimate Survival Guide for IRS Problems.

Fugees Singer Lauryn Hill Sentenced to Prison for Tax Evasion

Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Lauryn Hill has been sentenced to three months in prison and three months of home confinement for failing to file tax returns for five years and not reporting more than \$2.3 million in income.

Hill, 37, of South Orange, N.J., had previously pleaded guilty to three counts of failing to file tax returns with the IRS (see Singer Lauryn Hill Pleads Guilty to Not Paying Taxes).

The sentence was imposed Monday by U.S. Magistrate Judge Madeline Cox Arleo in a Newark, N.J., federal court. Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Lauryn Hill has been sentenced to three months in prison and three months of home confinement for failing to file tax returns for five years and not reporting more than \$2.3 million in income.

In addition to being a singer and actress, Hill owned and operated four S corporations,

and her primary source of income was royalties from the recording and film industries. She won Grammy Awards for her 1998 solo album "The Mis-



education of Lauryn Hill" and had recorded several successful albums with her previous group, The Fugees.

During 2005, 2006 and 2007, Hill received more than \$1.8 million in income from those sources, according to prosecutors, but didn't file her tax returns for those years.

During the hearing, Hill compared her tax predicament to slavery. "I was put into a system I didn't know the nature of," she said, according to the Los Angeles Times. "I'm a child of former slaves. I got into

an economic paradigm and had that imposed on me," she said. "I sold 50 million units ... now I'm up here paying a tax debt. If that's not likened to slavery, I don't know what is." When Hill was originally charged by federal authorities, she wrote a lengthy explanation on her Tumblr blog of her rationale for not paying taxes, saying she had gone "underground ... in order to build a community of people, like-minded in their desire for freedom and the right to pursue their goals and lives without being manipulated and controlled by a media protected military industrial complex with a completely different agenda." However, she added that she eventually hoped to straighten out her tax problems (see Lauryn Hill Explains Failure to Pay Taxes).

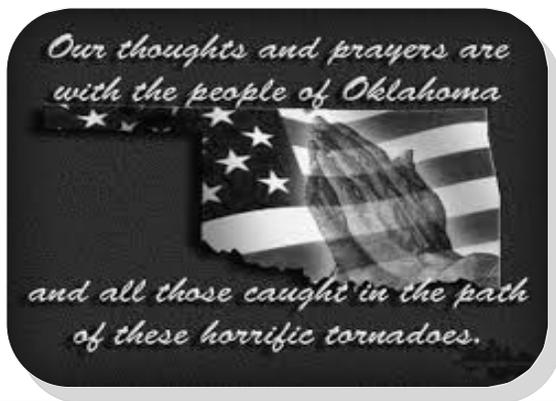
While Hill pleaded guilty to charges specifically related to those tax years, her sentence also takes into account additional income and tax losses for 2008 and 2009—when she also failed to file federal returns—along with her outstanding tax liability to the

state of New Jersey, for a total income of approximately \$2.3 million and total tax loss of approximately \$1,006,517.

In addition to the prison term and home confinement, Judge Arleo sentenced Hill to serve a year of supervised release and ordered her to pay a \$60,000 fine in addition to her restitution to the IRS. Judge Arleo also ordered Hill to fully cooperate with the IRS, including payment of outstanding interest and penalties on her tax obligations.

U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman credited special agents with IRS-Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Shantelle P. Kitchen, with the investigation. The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandra L. Moser of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

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Victims of the Oklahoma tornadoes get some tax relief from IRS

They have until Sept. 30 to file and pay taxes for any return or payment that was due after May 17, 2013. This covers the

June 17 and Sept. 16 deadlines for individuals to pay estimated taxes. And payroll tax deposits that were due between May

17 and June 2 can be deposited by June 3 without any penalty.

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<p>Question:</p> <p><i>The highest selling music artists of all time The Beatles released which album on June 1st, 1967 ?</i></p>	<p>A. <i>Yellow Submarine</i></p> <p>B. <i>Help!</i></p> <p>C. <i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i></p> <p>D. <i>Let It Be</i></p>
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