



TRS Newspaper

Tax Resolution Services, Co., Est. 1997

"The Nation's Leading Experts in Tax Negotiation and Mediation"

6345 Balboa Blvd., Bldg. IV, Suite 285 Encino, CA 91316

1-(866) IRS-PROBLEMS or (818) 774-1813 / www.taxresolution.com

In 2010, IRS to Put Even More Heat on Tax Cheats

If you thought the last couple of years were hard on tax cheats, wait until you get a look at the government's plans for 2010

Let's be honest: It's been a rough couple of years for tax cheats in the United States.

For middle-class tax cheats, there was the ol' Caribbean scheme. U.S. taxpayers living in the United States would stash their money in a Caribbean bank account, then link that bank account to a credit card they could use to pay for everyday expenses at home. It gave these taxpayers the tax-cheating luxury of having had money the IRS didn't know a thing about.

Until, of course, the IRS found out. The government cut deals with the major credit card companies and obtained lists of people whose credit cards were linked to foreign accounts.

Amnesty came first. Then came prosecutions of individuals for tax evasion.

For wealthy tax cheats, Switzerland has long been the scheme. With the right money and contacts, U.S. taxpayers could conceal hundreds of thousands, even millions, in bank accounts protected by a Swiss banking veil that guaranteed total secrecy.

Until, of course, the IRS finally pierced that banking veil after threatening to prosecute Swiss bank UBS. Now the U.S. government is set to obtain the names of taxpayers who have been hiding their many greenbacks.

Now, those with Swiss accounts could face enormous fines and even prison time.

As I said, it's been a rough couple of years for tax cheats in our country. The bad news for them: The pain ain't over. Not yet.

On Dec. 10, 2009, at the 22nd Annual George Washington University International Tax

Conference, IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman made it clear that what has seemed like a bare-knuckled aggressiveness against tax cheats will only get more, well, bare-knuckled!

"The unprecedented agreement with the Swiss authorities we reached this past August regarding UBS account holders — and the response to the special offshore voluntary disclosure program — together represent an historic milestone," Shulman told the audience. "They proved to the world — especially to account holders, promoters and banks — that we're serious about our international efforts. We're serious about piercing the veil of bank secrecy. And we're serious about carrying forward the momentum to address offshore tax evasion.

"We will be mining the 14,700 voluntary disclosures," he continued, "for information to identify financial institutions, advisors, and others who promoted or otherwise facilitated U.S. persons hiding assets and income offshore and attempted to shirk their tax responsibilities at home."

Shulman promised increased budgets for compliance, the hiring of additional agents and a general sharpening of the IRS's mighty sword.

Over the previous years, Shulman has proven he isn't a man of empty promises.

If you're cheating, maybe it's time you stop. And maybe it's time you finally get a tax professional to help you.

*Michael Rozbruch is a Certified Tax Resolution Specialist, a member of the American Society of IRS Problem Solvers and a Maryland CPA. You can contact him at 866-477-7762 to obtain a free subscription to his newsletter titled *The IRS Times & Inquirer*.*