

Tax Resolution Times



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Cryptocurrency Company Owners Face 5 Years in Prison!

The founders of a cryptocurrency company, Bruce Bise and Samuel Mendez, pleaded guilty to tax evasion for a scheme that defrauded more than 13,000 investors of approximately 24 million dollars.

Bise and Mendez marketed their company, Bitqyck, and the company's currency, Bitqy, as a way for "those individuals who missed out on Bitcoin" to get rich. Except they were the only ones who got rich.

The two men promised investors shares in a currency that never existed, and profited by diverting money from the company for their personal use. From 2016 to 2018 they used almost nine million dollars of investor money for personal expenses. This included multiple casino trips, cars, luxury home furnishings, art and rent.

In 2016 and 2017 Bise underreported his income to the IRS, resulting in a tax loss of \$371,278. During the same period Mendez also underreported his income, resulting in a tax loss of \$311,155. In 2018 the company failed to file a corporate tax return despite netting more than 3.5 million dollars from investors.

Both men face up to five years in prison.

Instructor Fails to Learn the Language of the IRS

Daniel Berglund, a self-employed computer language instructor, was convicted of four counts of tax evasion for failing to file taxes from 1987 to 2017. Berglund took many steps to hide his income from the IRS – including giving his clients a made up tax identification number to prevent payments to him from being reported to the IRS, depositing payments into accounts not in his name, and converting cash payments into silver, that he hid throughout his home.

Berglund's tax evasion resulted in a tax debt of \$146,806. He faces a maximum prison sentence of five years and up to \$250,000 for each count of tax evasion.

"The IRS suggests filing early to reduce the chances that someone will steal your identity, and file before you. Honestly, if somebody wants my identity so badly that they'll file my tax return for me, go crazy. You can mow my lawn while you're at it too."

-Jimmy Kimmel

Tax Preparer Sentenced to Multiple Years In Prison for Filing Multiple False Tax Returns

Damian Barrett, a Florida tax preparer, was convicted of filing 745 false tax returns in 19 states.

Barrett owned two tax preparation companies. He used one to file legitimate returns and the other to file false returns.

From 2015 to 2018 Barrett filed 348 false returns in the state of Oregon alone, requesting more than \$322,000 in fraudulent refunds. The state paid out more than \$130,000 in refunds as a result of these claims.

Barrett used names and social security numbers of various individuals, some of whom were his legitimate clients, to submit the false returns. He also set up bank accounts in the names of some of his victims in order to receive the refunds.

In total he sought almost \$900,000 in refunds and received over \$234,000 in fraudulent refunds.

Barrett was sentenced to 54 months in federal prison and to pay more than \$234,000 in restitution to 11 state departments of revenue, and more than \$74,000 to the IRS.

Money Grows on Trees for Nursery Bookkeeper

The bookkeeper for a family owned tree nursery in North Carolina pleaded guilty to embezzling more than one million dollars over a six year period.

Richard Clark began working for the nursery in 2003, and in 2013 started writing checks to himself from the company. He covered his tracks by altering the check descriptions in QuickBooks. In 2016 Clark's employer changed addresses and asked Clark to close one of the company's bank accounts. Clark kept the account open and maintained the old address, which he gave to customers who were mailing checks to the company, and to receive bank correspondence. Clark then wrote himself checks from this account without his employer's knowledge.

Clark used \$50,000 of the stolen funds for a home theatre, \$80,000 for his mortgage and \$20,000 for a Ford F-250. In 2016 he excluded more than \$21,000 from his personal income tax return and in 2017 did not file a return, creating a tax loss of \$68,918.

Clark was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to pay \$194,750 to the IRS, and \$980,000 in restitution to his former employer.

Thank you!

Thanks to YOU, the word is spreading. Thanks to my clients and friends who graciously referred me to their friends, clients and relatives last month! I enjoy building my business based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you. I just couldn't do it without you!

This month I would like to thank **Debbie Beaucoudray for the referral of Cypress Roofing, LLC.**

A great way to have your company or yourself recognized here is to leave us a Facebook review @RedemptionLLC. Positive reviews help potential new clients find us and help them recognize you. Redemption, LLC will also host a quarterly drawing of all reviews left on Facebook for a chance to win a gift.

This Couple's Tax Fraud and Money Laundering Scheme Was Very Dirty

A couple from Maryland, James and Maureen Wilson, was indicted for conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, money laundering, identity theft and filing a false tax return in connection with a life insurance scheme.

Starting in 1996 the Wilsons sought to obtain more than 30 life insurance policies worth more than 20 million dollars on behalf of applicants. The policies were obtained using false information, including the amount of the applicant's existing life insurance coverage, the applicant's health, and the applicant's income.

The Wilsons later forged the signatures of the life insurance applicants and made themselves the beneficiaries of the policies. As a result, they received more than 8 million dollars in life insurance proceeds.

In order to launder and conceal these funds, the Wilsons controlled multiple bank accounts, some in their names and several with nominee owners.

In 2018 and 2019 they filed false tax returns and failed to report millions of dollars of illegally obtained life insurance proceeds.

Investors Duped in Hotel Scam

Christopher Ciccone, a New Jersey businessman who was previously convicted of wire fraud and filing a false tax return, was arrested for defrauding investors of more than one million dollars.

Ciccone lured prospective investors with the notion that his company was reserving blocks of rooms at luxury hotels, which would later be resold at a profit.

He promised investors returns between 15 and 50 percent within one to six months. His scheme generated 1.5 million dollars from 22 investors.

In reality, Ciccone never booked any hotel rooms. He used \$120,000 of the investors' money to pay early investors and to fund a lavish lifestyle. He spent \$54,000 on a BMW, \$235,000 on clothes, wine and other personal items and made more than \$216,000 in cash withdrawals.

Ciccone failed to include this money on his tax returns, and faces up to 20 years in prison and a 5 million dollar fine.

Are You My Next Client of the Month?

Every month I choose a very special *Client of the Month*. It's my way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks!" to those who support me and my business with referrals, word of mouth and repeat business.

This month's *Client of the Month* is **Called to Order, LLC**. Organization is at the heart of Called To Order. We help our clients get rid of things they don't need, so that we can bring order and beauty into their homes and businesses. We also offer space planning, design and full remodel services.

You might be my next *Client of the Month* too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming month.

Did You Know?

In 1987 the IRS began requiring social security numbers for children listed as dependents on tax returns. That year about 7 million children 'disappeared.'

Thank you for the Kind Words...

A few years ago, I had reached a breaking point. The financial/invoicing side of my business became too overwhelming. Dawn at Redemption, LLC was an answer to prayer! She created systems that lifted a tremendous weight off of my shoulders. As her team has grown, they continue to be an integral part of bringing order to MY business!

Mollie Johnson at Called To Order, LLC

I'd Like to Hear From You!

If you have an IRS issue, or just want to refer a friend, relative or client, we'd love to hear from you. We can provide a no-obligation confidential consultation to help you solve your IRS problems.

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E Enter Our Trivia Contest for a Chance to Win a Free Gift!

Take the Trivia Challenge to win!

Each month, I'll give you a new trivia question. The first **THREE** people who email my office at asst@RedemptionLLC.org with the correct answer will win a free prize. Take your best guess and email us at asst@RedemptionLLC.org.

This month's question is....

How many pies does Costco sell every year for Thanksgiving?

- a) Over six million c) Over 2 million
 b) Over 10 million d) Less than one million

Email today at
asst@RedemptionLLC.org

Your IRS Questions Answered Here...

Question: *I owe 78,000 to the IRS for back taxes. I'm constantly getting threatening letters from them. This has become a big problem in my life that I have no idea how to solve. Can you help me?*

Answer: For what it's worth, take some comfort in knowing that you are not alone. There are tens of millions of Americans in similar situations, dealing with IRS debt hanging over their heads and concerned about how it will affect their future.

The good news: You have options. Once you and your tax resolution specialist has analyzed your current financial situation, the next step is to negotiate a resolution with the IRS. You will most likely be looking at one of two options – the Offer in Compromise or the Installment Agreement.

The Offer in Compromise (OIC) was created for people who owe a substantial amount to the IRS but who, for whatever reason, are unable to pay their tax debt off, even over time. The Offer in Compromise allows taxpayers to negotiate a settlement amount that will take care of the entire tax debt once and for all. This settlement agreement can lower the tax debt by a significant amount, however there are strict eligibility requirements.

If you do not qualify for the OIC then you may consider the Installment Agreement, which allows you to pay off your debt over time by making manageable monthly payments, much like a commercial installment loan.

We at Redemption, LLC are experts in IRS tax problem resolution and help taxpayers with their IRS Problems every day. **There is a solution to EVERY problem.** Generally, you'll never have to meet or speak with the IRS once you bring us into the picture. Call us today! **225-235-1949** for a FREE confidential consultation. **consultation.**