



California Society
of Tax Consultants

CSTC Reporter e-Newsletter

CSTC Newsletter

December 2023

In This Issue...

From the CSTC President • Save the Date for the 2024 Summer Symposium! • Purchase the Session Materials from the 2023 Fall Forum • Upcoming Chapter Events • Welcome New CSTC Members • Legislative Advocacy • News from the IRS • Join CSTC! • CSTC Member Benefits • Thank You to our 2023 Sponsors and Exhibitors

From the CSTC President Digital Assets

I recently read an article about digital assets. We've encountered digital assets before with cryptocurrency. The IRS defines digital assets as "any digital representation of value which is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or any similar technology." Its examples include cryptocurrency, stable coins, and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

But the article I was reading was not about tax, but about estate planning. In that realm, the term digital assets has a much broader definition. It includes all your online accounts and hard storage devices. So I made a mental list. My digital assets would include hard storage devices – desktop, laptop, and external hard drive – and online accounts – email accounts, social media accounts, and my website.

It does indeed include all of these, but it includes much more: cloud storage, such as Google Drive and Apple iCloud, and online financial accounts, such as online bank accounts and PayPal. It also includes blogs, picture and document storage, music, video, and gaming accounts and purchases, subscription services, manuscripts and computer files, shopping and reward programs, and even recipes stored online!

A few years ago, I made a list of relevant information for my kids to have when I'm gone or incapacitated, and I uploaded it to their secure portals. It includes passwords, security questions, and other information they may need. But I was surprised when I saw the above list of digital assets, and saw how much was included. My password manager includes access to most of my online and storage accounts, but I need to go through it to see that everything is included.

Some suggest keeping this list in a sealed envelope separate from your will or trust documents. And that the will or estate documents should contain a specific clause to allow your executor to access some or all of the digital assets. This involves legal issues, and therefore should be discussed with the attorney helping with your estate planning.

But listing one's digital assets and access information, and defining who has access is something we individually need to do. My year-end review this year is definitely going to include a vetting and an update of my list of digital assets and related information!

Linda Dong
CSTC President



Grab your pick-axe* and your prospecting gear as we head back to Reno July 21 through 24 to hit the motherload...of tax education!

You read that right, it's JULY this year, so be sure to mark your calendars.

The 2024 Symposium committee is so excited about the solid-gold lineup of speakers this year. Whether you're just starting out and want to get more familiar with the foundation of tax, a seasoned pro looking for fresh ideas on complex topics, or anything in between, we have something for you! Schedule and registration information is coming soon, so be sure to stake your claim on our early-bird pricing.

See you in Reno!

*Pick-axes discouraged, unless they're foam...

Did you miss the Fall Forum covering The Lifecycle of a Partnership / LLC?

If you missed this year's live class, you can still get all the materials – the handouts, PowerPoint slides, and recordings of all four classes! [Click here](#) to learn more and purchase the course. NO CE OFFERED.

The instructors are available by email to answer any questions: claudia@stanleycpa.com and linda@lindadongea.com.

Upcoming CSTC Chapter Events

December 4, 2023

The Partners, The Forms, The Schedule K-1 and the whole Tax Bang!

Orange County - South Chapter Virtual Meeting

1 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)

1 California hours (Topics covering California law issues)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

UPDATE FOR 2023 RETURNS!

Hosted by the Orange County Chapter

8 CPE credits

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 6, 2023

Offer and Compromise, and Federal Updates

Temecula Valley Chapter In-Person Meeting

1 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)

1 Federal Tax Update hours (Topics covering new tax law)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

UPDATE FOR 2023 RETURNS!

Hosted by the Inland Empire Chapter

8 CPE credits

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 11, 2023

S Corporations, Form 1120-S, Schedule K-1

Orange County - South Chapter Virtual Meeting

2 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

UPDATE FOR 2023 RETURNS!

Hosted by the San Jose Chapter

8 CPE credits

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 12, 2023

Breakfast Meeting

North County San Diego Chapter In-Person Meeting

1 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

UPDATE FOR 2023 RETURNS!

Hosted by the San Francisco Bay Chapter

8 CPE credits

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 13, 2023

Orange County Chapter Annual Holiday Party!

Hosted by the Orange County Chapter

No CE offered at this event

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 14, 2023

Region Four Holiday Party!

Hosted by the East County San Diego, North County San Diego, and San Diego Chapters

No CE offered at this event

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 15, 2023

UPDATE FOR 2023 RETURNS!

Hosted by the Sacramento Chapter

8 CPE credits

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 16, 2023

UPDATE FOR 2023 RETURNS!

Hosted by the Central Valley Chapter

8 CPE credits

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

December 19, 2023

California Tax Update

Central Valley Chapter Virtual Meeting

4 California hours (Topics covering California law issues)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

[Click here](#) to view the CSTC calendar

Welcome New CSTC Members!

Danyan Chen

San Francisco Bay Chapter

Joanne Ferris

San Francisco Bay Chapter

Hanneke Finones
San Francisco Bay Chapter

Xiang Li
San Jose Chapter

Gloria McMartin
Los Angeles Chapter

Yosef Ocbai
Sacramento Chapter



Legislative Advocacy

CSTC has been the leading Association in supporting legislation to provide protection for our profession, to support our profession, and to enhance our profession. CSTC continuously leads our industry through legislative advocacy, educational opportunities, and professional inclusion.

CSTC works closely with a Legislative Consultant to keep an eye on important bills that would affect taxpayers and small business owners.

[Please click](#) here to view the bills that CSTC is currently monitoring.



[National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 4: Summit partners urge businesses to take steps to prevent data loss, fraud](#)

IR-2023-227, Nov. 30, 2023 – As part of National Tax Security Awareness Week, the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners today urged businesses to remain vigilant against cyberattacks aimed at stealing their customer's personal information and other business data that can help identity thieves.

[National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 3: IRS Identity Protection PIN can help avoid fraud and tax-related identity theft](#)

IR-2023-226, Nov. 29, 2023 – As part of ongoing efforts to increase security, the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners today reminded taxpayers they can get extra protection against identity theft during the 2024 tax season by joining the IP PIN program.

[IRS supports international efforts to fight fraud during Charity Fraud Awareness Week](#)

IR-2023-225, Nov. 28, 2023 – On Giving Tuesday and as part of Charity Fraud Awareness Week, the Internal Revenue Service highlighted its continued support of international efforts to fight fraud and charity scams.

[National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 2: Security Summit reminds tax pros about importance of written security plans and data breach response; special webinar planned for Nov. 30](#)

IR-2023-224, Nov. 28, 2023 – As part of a larger effort to protect taxpayers against identity theft, the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners today reminded tax professionals to protect themselves and their client's sensitive information, including putting in place written security plans and following new requirements to use multi-factor authentication.

[IRS, Security Summit partners launch 2023 National Tax Security Awareness Week focusing on holiday scams, protecting personal information as tax season nears](#)

IR-2023-223, Nov. 27, 2023 – On Cyber Monday, the Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and the nation's tax industry – working together as the Security Summit – kicked-off the 8th National Tax Security Awareness Week with tips for taxpayers and tax professionals to avoid scams and protect sensitive personal information.

[Saver's Credit can help low- and moderate-income taxpayers to save more in 2024](#)

IR-2023-222, Nov. 22, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service reminds low- and moderate-income taxpayers that they can save for retirement now and possibly earn a special tax credit in 2024 and years ahead.

[IRS announces delay in Form 1099-K reporting threshold for third party platform payments in 2023; plans for a threshold of \\$5,000 for 2024 to phase in implementation](#)

IR-2023-221, Nov. 21, 2023 – Following feedback from taxpayers, tax professionals and payment processors and to reduce taxpayer confusion, the Internal Revenue Service today released Notice 2023-74 announcing a delay of the new \$600 Form 1099-K reporting threshold for third party settlement organizations for calendar year 2023.

[Treasury and IRS issue proposed regulations defining energy property](#)

IR-2023-220, Nov. 17, 2023 – The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued proposed regulations updating rules for the investment tax credit under section 48 (ITC) that have been unchanged since 1987.

[Interest rates remain the same for the first quarter of 2024](#)

IR-2023-219, Nov. 17, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced that interest rates will remain the same for the calendar quarter beginning Jan. 1, 2024.

[IRS, Security Summit partners announce 8th annual National Tax Security Awareness Week begins Nov. 27; focus on raising awareness among taxpayers, tax pros on security tips to protect against identity theft, scams](#)

IR-2023-218, Nov. 17, 2023 — The IRS, along with its Security Summit partners in state tax agencies and the nation's tax industry, today announced a special week focusing taxpayer and tax professional awareness on protecting sensitive financial information against identity thieves as the holidays and the 2024 tax season approach.

[IRS reminds eligible 2020 and 2021 non-filers to claim Recovery Rebate Credit before time runs out](#)

IR-2023-217, Nov. 17, 2023 — The Internal Revenue Service is reminding those who may be entitled to the Recovery Rebate Credit to file a tax return and claim their money before it's too late.

[Treasury, IRS propose regulations implementing disallowance of deductions for certain conservation easement contributions by partnerships, S corporations](#)

IR-2023-216, Nov. 17, 2023 — The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued proposed regulations that provide guidance under a new section of the law that disallows deductions for certain charitable conservation contributions by partnerships and other pass-through entities. Syndicated conservation easements have been included in the IRS' annual list of Dirty Dozen tax schemes for many years.

[Qualified charitable distributions allow eligible IRA owners up to \\$100,000 in tax-free gifts to charity](#)

IR-2023-215, Nov. 16, 2023 — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded individual retirement arrangement (IRA) owners age 70½ or over that they can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year.

[IRS selects Rajiv Uppal as new Chief Information Officer; veteran technology executive will assist with ongoing transformation work](#)

IR-2023-214, Nov. 15, 2023 — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that Rajiv Uppal has been selected to be the next chief information officer and assist with the tax agency's transformation work.

[IRS offers free Nov. 16 webinar on new information return e-file threshold change taking effect next year](#)

IR-2023-213, Nov. 14, 2023 — The Internal Revenue Service will hold a free webinar at 1 p.m. ET on Thursday, Nov. 16, to update employers, tax professionals and others on the most recent developments of the e-file requirements for information returns that take effect Jan. 1, 2024.

[IRS highlights International Fraud Awareness Week; taxpayers urged to protect against scams, schemes](#)

IR-2023-212, Nov. 13, 2023 — As part of ongoing efforts to protect taxpayers, the Internal Revenue Service reminds people that International Fraud Awareness Week serves as an important time to protect personal and financial information from scam artists and tax schemes.

[IRS updates frequently asked questions related to wrongful incarceration of a United States service member](#)

IR-2023-211, Nov. 13, 2023 — The Internal Revenue Service today issued frequently asked questions (FAQs) on Fact Sheet 2023-26 updating question 9 to reflect that wrongfully incarcerated United States service members cannot exclude certain payments from gross income.

[Tax season rapidly approaching: Get ready now to file 2023 federal income tax returns in early 2024](#)

IR-2023-210, Nov. 13, 2023 – With the nation’s tax season rapidly approaching, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers there are important steps they can take now to help “get ready” to file their 2023 federal tax return.

[IRS publishes its fiscal year 2023 Financial Report; receives award for 2022 report](#)

IR-2023-209, Nov. 9, 2023 – The IRS today issued its most recent Financial Report. Earlier this year AGA, formerly known as the Association of Government Accountants, presented the IRS its first Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) award.

[IRS provides tax inflation adjustments for tax year 2024](#)

IR-2023-208, Nov. 9, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced the annual inflation adjustments for more than 60 tax provisions for tax year 2024, including the tax rate schedules and other tax changes.

[IRS Advisory Council issues 2023 Annual Report](#)

IR-2023-207, Nov. 9, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council (IRSAC) today issued its annual report for 2023, including recommendations to the IRS on new and continuing issues in tax administration.

[Clean vehicle sellers and dealers should register with Energy Credits Online; register by Dec. 1, 2023 to ensure Jan. 1 availability](#)

IR-2023-206, Nov. 8, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service reminded dealers and sellers of clean vehicles to register their organizations immediately on the Energy Credits Online tool.

[Avoid a surprise next year; review tax withholding now before time runs out](#)

IR-2023-205, Nov. 3, 2023 – With 2023 rapidly coming to a close, the Internal Revenue Service today encouraged taxpayers to review their tax withholding as soon as possible to avoid a potential surprise when they file their tax return next year.

[Digital asset public hearing rescheduled for Nov. 13](#)

IR-2023-204, Nov. 2, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today that the hearing on proposed regulations regarding digital asset transactions currently scheduled for Nov. 7 has been rescheduled for Nov. 13, 2023.

[401\(k\) limit increases to \\$23,000 for 2024, IRA limit rises to \\$7,000](#)

IR-2023-203, Nov. 1, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today that the amount individuals can contribute to their 401(k) plans in 2024 has increased to \$23,000, up from \$22,500 for 2023.

[IRS opens free Energy Credit Online tool for sellers of clean vehicles to register for time-of-sale reporting and dealer advance payments for the Clean Vehicle Credit](#)

IR-2023-202, Nov. 1, 2023 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today that sellers of clean vehicles can now register using the new IRS Energy Credits Online tool, available free from the IRS.

[News release and fact sheet archive](#)

Find previous year news releases and fact sheets from 1997 through last month.

Join the California Society of Tax Consultants!

[Click here to fill out an online application.](#)

CSTC advances professionalism within the tax industry by:

- Providing quality education
 - Creating networking opportunities
 - Advocating professional standards
-

CSTC Member Benefits



CSTC members have access to benefits such as free payroll processing services for your tax practice, and the opportunity to earn new revenue through their flexible partnership options.



CSTC is pleased to include the VeriFyle Pro™ premium secure online document and message sharing service at no cost to CSTC members!



Wolters Kluwer: Discounts on Tax, Accounting & Audit Resources, Software, Information & Services.



We are a professional full-service tax advisory firm in San Diego. Our goal is to provide a level of service for our clients that will exceed expectations in every possible way. We strive to offer a diverse level of services to meet the needs of the diverse community we have been working in for more than 30 years.



CSTC members receive the TaxBook WebLibrary at a special price. Other Member Benefits Include:

Savings on all Society Educational Events / Savings on Contact, Correspondence & Self Study Education / Savings with member specialty CSTC Connects (previously yellow Pages) list / Savings with E&O Insurance, plus specialty coverage relevant to your profession / Online CSTC Find-a-Tax Consultant search to help promote your business! / CSTC Member Listserv



Office Depot has partnered with us to provide exclusive savings in-store and online, plus fantastic additional benefits. This program is all about providing preferred pricing to our clubs, and the savings extend to almost every item.

Savings include 20% to 55% off item office supply core list, 20% to 55% off retail on cleaning & break room items, 10% off branded; 20% off private brand ink & toner core list, Average 10% off retail on 200 technology core items, Free next-day shipping on orders of \$50 or more, and SIGNIFICANT savings on copy & print. Become a CSTC member to sign up for our Office Depot Small Business Savings Program, administered by Excelerate America.



TaxMama's® EA Exam Course prepares tax professionals to do so much more than just pass the IRS' Special Enrollment Examination. This is an in-depth course that teaches tax law from the ground up. It explains how tax returns work, with examples of basic 1040s, Schedule Cs, 1065s, 1120s, and 1120Ss; you learn tax law, tax research, client representation for audits, appeals and collections.



If you are interested in buying or selling a practice, contact us today! ATB is operated by Enrolled Agents ensuring a complete understanding of our profession. Please give us a call at (855) 428-2225 or visit us online at www.ATBCAL.com for more information and to view our current listings. CA DRE 02002824

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS



