

Tax Issues in Divorce

Unforeseen tax consequences to divorce clients can damage any attorney's reputation and threaten their practice. In the interest of doing what is best for clients, and enhancing your expertise and client satisfaction, benefit from this comprehensive overview of intermediate and advanced tax issues.

Alimony

- How the IRS always gets the last word on alimony tax status, and may change it, years after the decree, from what was contained in MDAs and/or court orders.
- Understand often overlooked prohibitions on the timing of reductions in alimony.
- Why calculating alimony buyouts, based on different tax brackets of the parties, is not as straightforward as it may seem and may lead to erroneous conclusions.

Child Support

- The real value of personal exemptions to taxpayer parents.
- How to preserve the most dollars in the marital pool of funds when allocating future child dependency claims.

Investments

- Understanding the real cost basis of accounts and likely capital gains taxes due.
- Tax implications, benefits, and real values to each party of capital loss carry-forward.

Stock Options

- Why all stock options are not created equal, nor taxed the same.
- How improper calculation of the value of stock options may disadvantage your client.

Transfer of Property

- *Exceptions* to the "no tax upon transfer of property due to divorce" guidelines.
- Understanding the rules and tax implications regarding previous business use of property such as the marital residence, vehicles, other real estate, etc.

Pensions and retirement plans – Strategies that can make all the difference

- How to take funds out of plans and avoid early withdrawal penalties.
- How different tax brackets of the parties impact values of otherwise equal accounts.
- Distinguishing between pre-tax and after-tax accounts and how to handle accounts holding both pre- and after-tax monies.
- Why QDROs are so difficult to get approved and what to do about it.

Real Estate

- When the marital residence has a larger capital gains tax than what seemed evident.
- Avoid having your client left with a huge real estate-related tax bill years after divorce.
- Tax status of each of the parties when the marital home is sold years after the divorce.