



California Society  
of Tax Consultants

# CSTC Reporter e-Newsletter

CSTC Newsletter

April 2024

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## It's that time again... From the CSTC President



Here we are once again – it's April 1st, and we're heading down the home stretch of another tax season. Compared to the last few years, this was a relatively calm season – no endless disaster-related extensions (except for you all in San Diego), no payments to reconcile, and no last-minute retroactive tax laws.

So how has your season been? Challenging? (*Definitely.*) Frustrating? (*More than a little.*) Invigorating? (*Sometimes.*) Exasperating? (*At times.*) Amusing? (*There were moments.*) Rewarding? (*Absolutely.*) Exhausting? (*Oh, yes.*) All of the above? (*Undeniably*) Yes, it's definitely all of these things. One thing, however, it never is. It's never boring!

Even now, going into those last two hectic, but never boring, weeks, the satisfaction of helping solve the mysteries of the tax code for our beleaguered clients, of saving our clients tax dollars, and of working out a plan for them going forward is the best antidote to the stress and last-minute hang-ups. We must really love what we do to put up with what we do!

And yet, as much as I love my clients and love helping them, as we head into April, I start getting glimpses of what I'll be doing after April 15th. Sometimes it's a trip; often it's a project, like painting and organizing a closet. At odd moments I'll think a little bit about it, or make a little plan.

This year I can't wait to work in my garden. Spring burst forth exuberantly this month and my yard is ablaze with flowers. It looks fantastic, and makes me smile just to look at it. But I just don't have time to enjoy it. I pass by when I'm taking the trash cans out to the curb, but then it's back to my office to prepare more returns. However, the glimpses are increasing as the time gets closer. The end is now in sight. Just two more weeks....

So as we push through these last two weeks, let's keep those glimpses in sight. We'll continue to do the best for our clients, we'll strive to finish all our returns, and yet let's also start to prepare for that time after April 15th when that glimpse enlarges to become the full view for us to enjoy.

Wishing you all a fantastic end to your season and a great beginning of your post-season!

Linda Dong  
CSTC President



CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF TAX CONSULTANTS  
**STRIKE IT RICH WITH  
THE MOTHERLOAD OF CE**  
SILVER LEGACY RESORT CASINO • RENO, NEVADA  
JULY 21-24, 2024



I am so happy to announce that registration for the Summer Symposium is open!

I know, I know, it's kind of late this year, but when you see the line-up of speakers and topics we have this year I think you'll forgive the tardiness.

We have some new faces joining our roster of speakers, and we even managed to drag an old favorite out of retirement for a special guest appearance. This year truly is the MOTHERLODE of tax education!

It's only fitting that we strike it rich at the Silver Legacy in Reno this year, where, if you're anything like me, you'll be pleased to learn that the rooms STILL HAVE COFFEE MAKERS!

Your registration includes not only all of the amazing sessions (you can get all of your CTEC hours in one three-day conference), but also includes our Sunday welcome reception, breakfast each day, lunch-and-learn sessions, and a special exhibitor reception where you can mingle with our fantastic sponsors (there might be themed drinks, I'm just saying).

And hey, did you know that Reno has a bar called Death and Taxes? I think you know where you can find me after the sessions end for the day...

To help you get ready for the Gold Rush, here is me and a handful of the Symposium Committee, Speakers, and CSTC leaders (and also my family) getting in the spirit! Yes, I forced them to do this.

Can't wait to see you in Reno!

I wish you a smooth and prosperous tax season!

Shannon Hall

Summer Symposium Chair

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EVENT AND REGISTER!**

## Upcoming CSTC Chapter Events

### April 2, 2024

Round Table Discussion Topics & Breakfast  
North County San Diego Chapter In-Person Meeting  
1 California hour (Topics covering California law issues)  
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

### April 5, 2024

Round Table (Part two of a three part series)  
Temecula Valley Chapter In-Person Meeting  
2 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)  
1 California hours (Topics covering California law issues)  
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

### April 7, 2024

Roundtable Discussion 2023 Tax Return Issues/Resolutions  
Greater Long Beach Chapter In-Person Meeting  
2 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

### April 9, 2024

Round Table Discussion Topics & Breakfast  
North County San Diego Chapter In-Person Meeting  
1 Federal Law hour (Topics covering existing tax law)  
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

### April 12, 2024

Round Table (Part three of a three part series)  
Temecula Valley Chapter In-Person Meeting  
2 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)  
1 California hours (Topics covering California law issues)  
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

### April 17, 2024

401k/Retirement Plans - Current Topics  
San Jose Chapter Virtual Meeting  
2 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)  
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

**April 18, 2024**

AFTER SEASON CELEBRATION!?!  
San Diego Chapter In-Person Meeting  
No CE Offered  
San Diego Chapter Members Only  
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

AFTER TAX BASH  
North County San Diego Chapter In-Person Meeting  
No CE Offered  
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

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

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## Welcome New CSTC Members!

**Sunil Arora**  
San Francisco Bay Chapter

**Nicolas Cotton**  
Orange County Chapter

**Lourdes Denegri**  
Greater Long Beach Chapter

**David Doran**  
Inland Empire Chapter

**Susanna Hu**  
Sacramento Chapter

**Victor Nunez**  
Member-at-Large

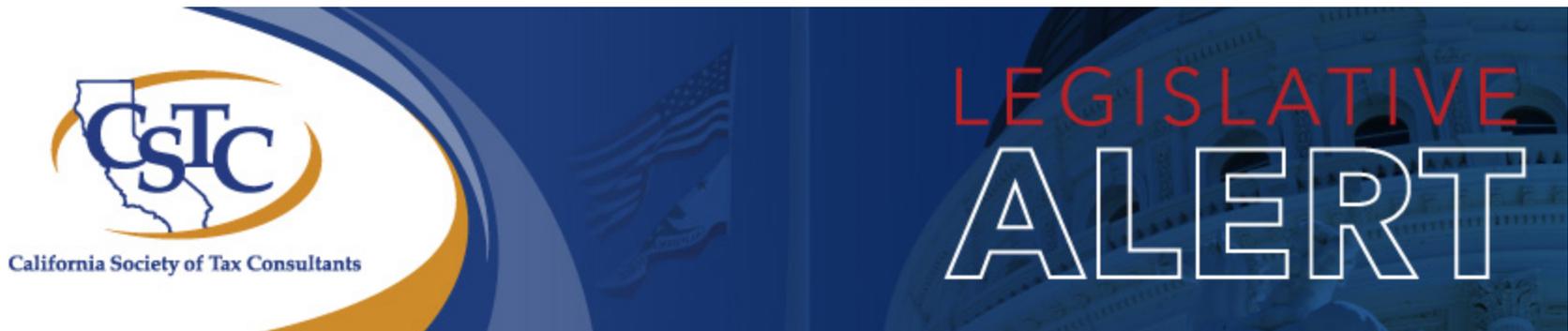
**Christen Sims**  
San Diego Chapter

**Linh Vuong**  
Los Angeles Chapter

Michelle Wong  
Sacramento Chapter

Judith Zeigler  
San Jose Chapter

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## 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.

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The IRS is hiring! [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more!

[IRS and Treasury issue guidance for solar and wind powered energy facilities in low-income communities under the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

IR-2024-86, March 29, 2024 – The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued Revenue Procedure 2024-19 to provide guidance for owners of certain solar or wind facilities built in connection with low-income communities.

## [Dirty Dozen: Beware of aggressive promoters who dupe taxpayers into making questionable Employee Retention Credit claims; risks continue for small businesses, special withdrawal program remains available](#)

IR-2024-85, March 29, 2024 — As part of this year's Dirty Dozen, the Internal Revenue Service continues to warn businesses and others to stay clear of unscrupulous and aggressive promoters of questionable claims for the Employee Retention Credit.

## [IRS kicks off annual Dirty Dozen with warning about phishing and smishing scams](#)

IR-2024-84, March 28, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service today kicked off the annual Dirty Dozen list with a warning for taxpayers to be aware of evolving phishing and smishing scams designed to steal sensitive taxpayer information.

## [IRS Criminal Investigation releases updated COVID fraud statistics on 4th anniversary of CARES Act; nearly \\$9 billion investigated](#)

IR-2024-83, March 28, 2024 — Four years after the enactment of a key pandemic-era law, the Internal Revenue Service released updated numbers showing Criminal Investigation (CI) has investigated 1,644 tax and money laundering cases related to COVID fraud potentially totaling \$8.9 billion, with well over half that amount coming from cases opened in the last year.

## [IRS further extends tax relief for Hawaii wildfire victims; 2023 returns, payments, other deadlines postponed to Aug. 7](#)

IR-2024-82, March 27, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service today further postponed until Aug. 7, 2024, various tax-filing and tax-payment deadlines for individuals and businesses affected by the Aug. 8, 2023, wildfires in Hawaii. Previously, the deadline was Feb. 15, 2024.

## [IRS announces tax relief for taxpayers impacted by severe storms, landslides and mudslides in Alaska; various deadlines postponed to July 15](#)

IR-2024-81, March 25, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service announced today tax relief for individuals and businesses in the Wrangell Cooperative Association of Alaska Tribal Nation that were affected by severe storms, landslides and mudslides that began on Nov. 20, 2023.

## [Time running out to claim \\$1 billion in refunds for tax year 2020, taxpayers face May 17 deadline](#)

IR-2024-80, March 25, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that almost 940,000 people across the nation have unclaimed refunds for tax year 2020 but face a May 17 deadline to submit their tax returns.

## [IRS reminder to U.S. taxpayers living, working abroad: File 2023 tax return by June 17; those impacted by terrorist attacks in Israel have until Oct. 7](#)

IR-2024-79, March 22, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers living and working outside the U.S. to file their 2023 federal income tax return by Monday, June 17, 2024. This deadline applies to both U.S. citizens and resident aliens abroad, including those with dual citizenship.

## [IRS Employee Retention Credit compliance effort tops \\$1 billion threshold since fall; Voluntary Disclosure Program suspended after March 22, special withdrawal program remains open as audits, investigations intensify](#)

IR-2024-78, March 22, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that compliance efforts around erroneous Employee Retention Credit (ERC) claims have topped more than \$1 billion so far since last fall as work continues on a number of

efforts to counter questionable claims pushed by aggressive marketing, including an aggressive push on claims made for 2021.

### [IRS issues guidance for energy communities and the bonus credit program under the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

IR-2024-77, March 22, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service today issued Notice 2024-30 that expands certain rules for determining what an energy community is for the production and investment tax credits.

### [IRS: Free File provides quick, easy way to file an extension](#)

IR-2024-76, March 21, 2024 — As the end of tax season draws near, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers there's an easy way to get a tax filing extension through the Free File program.

### [Seven warning signs of incorrect Employee Retention Credit claims for businesses to review as key March 22 deadline approaches](#)

IR-2024-75, March 20, 2024 — To counter promoters that marketed misleading information about the Employee Retention Credit (ERC), the Internal Revenue Service urged businesses to review seven suspicious signs of a bad claim and see if the agency's special programs can help them avoid future compliance issues.

### [Avoid tax return mistakes, reduce processing delays and refund adjustments by following these guidelines](#)

IR-2024-74 March 18, 2024 — As the April 15 filing deadline approaches, the Internal Revenue Service issued a reminder to taxpayers on ways to prevent typical errors on their federal tax returns to help speed potential refunds.

### [IRS provides more information in various languages; part of ongoing transformation effort to expand services to taxpayers](#)

IR-2024-73, March 15, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded individuals and businesses that the agency continues to increase the amount of information available in multiple languages.

### [March 22 deadline approaching to resolve incorrect Employee Retention Credit claims; IRS urges businesses to review questionable claims to avoid future compliance action](#)

IR-2024-72, March 15, 2024 — With a key March 22 deadline rapidly approaching, the Internal Revenue Service renewed calls for businesses to review the Employee Retention Credit guidelines to avoid future compliance action for improper claims.

### [Tax Time Guide: Escape penalties and interest with electronic payment options on IRS.gov](#)

IR-2024-71, March 14, 2024 — With the April 15 filing deadline approaching, the Internal Revenue Service encourages taxpayers who may find it difficult to gather the necessary documents they need to file or pay the taxes they owe to consider several options offered on IRS.gov to avoid late filing and interest penalties.

### [Joint Board extends waiver of physical presence education requirement for enrolled actuaries](#)

IR-2024-70, March 13, 2024 — The Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries is retroactively extending the temporary waiver of its physical presence requirement for continuing professional education (CPE) programs and is proposing regulations to eliminate this in-person requirement altogether.

### [IRS names Guy Ficco new Criminal Investigation chief](#)

IR-2024-69, March 13, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today that Guy Ficco will become the new IRS Criminal Investigation chief effective on April 1.

[Direct File officially opens in 12 pilot states following positive early reviews; eligible taxpayers can file online directly with the IRS for free](#)

IR-2024-68, March 12, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today the full-scale launch of the innovative Direct File pilot and encouraged eligible taxpayers in 12 states to try the new service to file their tax returns online for free directly with the IRS.

[IRS granting dyed diesel penalty relief as a result of Texas wildfires](#)

IR-2024-67, March 7, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service, in response to disruptions to the supply of fuel for diesel powered highway vehicles resulting from wildfires, will not impose a penalty when dyed diesel fuel with a sulfur content that does not exceed 15 parts-per-million is sold for use or used by diesel-powered vehicles on the highway in certain counties in Texas.

[IRS continues special Saturday hours on March 16 for face-to-face help at 70 Taxpayer Assistance Centers](#)

IR-2024-66, March 7, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service will open 70 Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs) on Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to provide in-person help across the nation.

[IRS alert: Beware of companies misrepresenting nutrition, wellness and general health expenses as medical care for FSAs, HSAs, HRAs and MSAs](#)

IR-2024-65, March 6, 2024 – Amid concerns about people being misled, the Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers and health spending plan administrators that personal expenses for general health and wellness are not considered medical expenses under the tax law.

[Margie Rollinson begins work as 49th IRS Chief Counsel; first woman to permanently hold position](#)

IR-2024-64, March 6, 2024 – Margie Rollinson took the oath of office today to become the 49th IRS Chief Counsel and the first woman to permanently hold the top legal position at the nation's tax agency.

[Tax Time Guide: Taxpayers should report digital asset transactions, gig economy income, foreign source income and assets](#)

IR-2024-63, March 6, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers they're generally required to report all earned income on their tax return, including income earned from digital asset transactions, the gig economy and service industry as well as income from foreign sources.

[Treasury, IRS issue guidance for the elective payment of advanced manufacturing investment credit](#)

IR-2024-62, March 5, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) today issued final regulations that provide guidance for the entities choosing the elective payment for the advanced manufacturing investment credit, established by the CHIPS Act of 2022.

[Treasury, IRS finalize rules on elective payments of certain clean energy credits under the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

IR-2024-61, March 5, 2024 – The Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service issued final regulations today for applicable entities that earn certain clean energy credits and choose to make an elective payment election.

## [Time is running out: IRS encourages eligible non-filers in 2020 to claim their Recovery Rebate Credit before May 17 deadline](#)

IR-2024-60, March 4, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded those who may be entitled to the COVID-era Recovery Rebate Credit in 2020 that time is running out to file a tax return and claim their money.

## [Registration opens for 2024 IRS Nationwide Tax Forum; five cities to host special sessions this summer](#)

IR-2024-59, March 4, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that registration for the agency's 2024 Nationwide Tax Forum is now open, providing tax professionals the opportunity to attend special continuing education sessions this summer in five cities across the nation.

## [IRS Free File program sees early increase in use; filings up nearly 10%](#)

IR-2024-58, March 1, 2024 — The Internal Revenue Service's Free File Guided Tax Software service has seen a year-over-year increase of nearly 10% so far this filing season, according to new statistics released today.

## [IRS: Never mind the myths; know the facts about receiving a Form 1099-K in 2024](#)

IR-2024-57, March 1, 2024 — To help taxpayers with filing, the Internal Revenue Service today debunked some common myths to help taxpayers understand what to do with Form 1099-K.

## [News release and fact sheet archive](#)

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

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## Join the California Society of Tax Consultants!

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CSTC advances professionalism within the tax industry by:

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

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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.



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