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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA, FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil No. 8:03-CV-415-T-26TGL

GREGORY T. MAYER, d/b/a LEGAL TAX
NEWSLETTER, LC, and d/b/a MORTON &
OXLEY, LTD,

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT FOR PERMANENT
INJUNCTION AND OTHER RELIEF**

Plaintiff, the United States of America, states as follows for its complaint against
defendant Gregory T. Mayer, d/b/a Legal Tax Newsletter, LC, and d/b/a Morton & Oxley, LTD:

Nature of Action

1. The United States brings this complaint to enjoin Gregory T. Mayer, individually and
doing business as or through the above-named companies or any other entity, and any other
person in active concert or participation with him, from directly or indirectly:

- (a) Organizing, promoting, marketing, or selling any abusive tax shelter, plan or arrangement that advises or encourages taxpayers to attempt to violate the internal revenue laws or unlawfully evade the assessment or collection of their federal tax liabilities;
- (b) Advocating through false and deceptive commercial speech, including through the preparation of federal tax returns and other tax documents, the false and frivolous position that U.S.-source income is nontaxable (the § 861 argument);
- (c) Engaging in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6700, i.e., by making or furnishing, in connection with the organization or sale of an abusive shelter, plan, or arrangement, a statement that he knows or has reason to know to be false or fraudulent as to any material federal tax matter;

- (d) Engaging in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6701, *i.e.*, by preparing or assisting others in the preparation of any tax forms or other documents to be used in connection with any material matter arising under the internal revenue laws and which the defendant knows will (if so used) result in the understatement of tax liability;
- (e) Engaging in any conduct that interferes with the administration and enforcement of the internal revenue laws, including but not limited to representing customers before the IRS and giving tax advice or providing tax services for compensation;
- (f) Engaging in any conduct that violates I.R.C. § 6694, *i.e.*, by preparing or assisting in the preparation of any return that results in the understatement of tax liability based on an unrealistic position, or I.R.C. § 6695, *i.e.*, by failing to retain and provide to the Internal Revenue Service a copy and list of all returns prepared; and
- (g) Acting as an income-tax-return preparer.

2. An injunction is warranted based on Mayer's continuing conduct as a preparer of false and abusive tax returns and as a promoter of abusive tax plans. If not enjoined, Mayer's actions will result in his customers incurring penalties and other civil or criminal sanctions and cause further revenue loss to the United States.

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1340 and 1345 and I.R.C. §§ 7402(a), 7407 and 7408.

4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1396.

Authorization

5. This action has been authorized and requested by the Chief Counsel of the IRS, a delegate of the Secretary of the Treasury, and commenced at the direction of a delegate of the Attorney General, pursuant to the provisions of I.R.C. §§ 7402, 7407, and 7408.

Defendant

6. Gregory T. Mayer resides at 1930 Cleveland Street, Clearwater, FL 33755.
7. Legal Tax Newsletter, LC is a business entity controlled wholly or in part by Gregory T. Mayer. It does business at 1008½ Drew Street, Clearwater FL 33755.
8. Morton & Oxley, LTD is a business entity controlled wholly or in part by Gregory T. Mayer. It does business at 1008½ Drew Street, Clearwater FL 33755.

Defendant's Activities

9. Mayer has been a paid tax return preparer since at least 1998.
10. Mayer has never been enrolled as a tax return preparer with the IRS.
11. The IRS has determined that Mayer individually prepared at least 421 federal tax returns for customers between 1998 and 2002. During that period Mayer, acting through Legal Tax Newsletter, LC prepared at least 130 federal tax returns.
12. Mayer has refused IRS requests that he provide a list of customers and returns to the IRS, in violation of I.R.C. § 6107(b).
13. Many of the returns Mayer prepared understated customers' tax liability based on either one or both of two fraudulent theories Mayer promotes.
14. First, Mayer promotes the frivolous "U.S. sources" or "§ 861 argument." This bogus argument posits that income earned within the United States is not taxable, based on a regulation promulgated under I.R.C. § 861—namely C.F.R. § 1.861-8(f), which focuses on foreign income.
15. Mayer prepares "zero return" federal income tax returns for his customers and includes with the returns various documents in which his customers falsely claim to have no taxable income. Mayer also prepares amended federal income tax returns for customers, who

previously reported income on their returns, which falsely claim that the customers in fact earned nothing and are entitled to refunds of taxes paid.

16. Second, Mayer promotes a scheme that improperly uses multiple tiers of sham domestic and offshore trusts and other business entities to conceal his customers' income and assets.

17. Mayer frequently uses the name "Morton & Oxley" as the trustee or manager of the entities, and Mayer frequently signs documents on behalf of the entities.

18. With Mayer's assistance, his customers then purportedly shuttle assets and income between and among their bogus trusts and/or business entities with no entity paying taxes on the income, and with the customers retaining or receiving the ultimate benefits of the assets and income.

19. Mayer also prepares returns on behalf of these sham trusts and other entities, on which he takes false and fraudulent positions including, but not limited to: taking improper deductions which completely offset the entity's income, resulting in no tax liability; failing to file paperwork indicating the recipient(s) of entity income; and asserting the frivolous § 861 argument.

20. When the IRS audits his customers, Mayer represents them before the IRS.

21. Mayer's representation consists of asserting the frivolous positions set forth above and engaging in disruptive and abusive tactics designed to frustrate or stop the audits.

22. These tactics include, but are not limited to: asserting the § 861 argument; making frivolous requests to the IRS for technical assistance; filing frivolous administrative complaints

against IRS employees involved in the audits; and refusing to respond to IRS summonses for frivolous reasons.

23. Through his preparation of false and fraudulent returns and promotion of abusive tax schemes, Mayer has cost the United States substantial lost tax revenue, drained IRS resources, and subjected his customers to potential civil and criminal sanctions.

Count I
(Injunction under I.R.C. § 7407)

24. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations made in paragraphs 1 through 23.

25. I.R.C. § 7407 authorizes a court to enjoin an income-tax-return preparer who:

- a. engages in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6694 (which penalizes a return preparer who prepares or submits a return that contains an unrealistic position) or I.R.C. § 6695 (which penalizes a return preparer who fails to keep a list of customers or turn over the client list to the IRS upon request); . . . or
- d. engages in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct that substantially interferes with the proper administration of the internal revenue laws.

If the Court finds that a preparer's misconduct is continual or repeated, and that a narrow injunction (*i.e.*, prohibiting only specific proscribed conduct) is insufficient to prevent a person's interference with the proper administration of federal tax laws, the Court may enjoin the preparer from preparing *any* federal income tax returns.

26. Mayer has continually and repeatedly engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6694 by preparing and submitting returns based on the frivolous and false § 861 argument, as explained in paragraphs 14-15 above.

27. Mayer has also continually and repeatedly engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6694 by asserting false and frivolous positions on returns based on sham trusts and other business entities on behalf of customers, as explained in paragraphs 16-19 above.

28. Mayer has engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6695 by refusing to keep a list of customers and returns or provide a list to the IRS on request.

29. Mayer is also subject to injunction under I.R.C. § 7407 because his assertion of frivolous positions about the tax laws and his disruptive and dilatory tactics when representing customers before the IRS constitute fraudulent and deceptive conduct that substantially interferes with the proper administration of the internal revenue laws.

30. Mayer should be enjoined from preparing any federal income tax returns because of his continual and repeated pattern of abusive and fraudulent conduct, as described above.

Count II

(Injunction under I.R.C. § 7408 for violations of §§ 6700 and 6701)

31. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations made in paragraphs 1 through 30.

32. I.R.C. § 7408 authorizes a court to enjoin persons who have engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. §§ 6700 or 6701 from engaging in further such conduct.

33. I.R.C. § 6700 imposes a penalty on any person who organizes (or assists in the organization of) any shelter, plan, or arrangement and makes or furnishes or causes another person to make or furnish (in connection with such organization) a statement regarding the excludibility of any income which the person knows or has reason to know is false or fraudulent as to any material matter.

34. I.R.C. § 6701 imposes a penalty on any person who aids in the preparation of any portion of a return, who knows the portion will be used to assert a position under the internal revenue laws, and who knows the portion would result in an understatement in tax liability.

35. Mayer has engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6700 by promoting the § 861 argument and by making false and fraudulent statements regarding the tax benefits of this argument.

36. Mayer has also engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6700 by promoting a system of sham trusts and other entities to hide assets and income and by making false and fraudulent statements regarding the tax benefits of this system.

37. Mayer has engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6701 by preparing tax returns based on the § 861 argument and sham trusts and other entities that he knew would result in understatements of tax liability.

38. Mayer should be enjoined from promoting and selling tax schemes and preparing tax returns and other documents based on the § 861 argument and sham trusts.

Count III

(Injunction under I.R.C. § 7402(a) for Unlawful Interference with the Enforcement of the Internal Revenue Laws)

39. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations made in paragraphs 1 through 38.

40. I.R.C. § 7402 authorizes an injunction against anyone who has engaged in conduct that substantially interferes with the administration of the internal revenue laws.

41. Mayer, through the actions described above, has engaged in conduct that interferes substantially with the administration and enforcement of the internal revenue laws.

42. If Mayer is not enjoined, he likely will continue to engage in conduct that interferes with the enforcement of the internal revenue laws. Mayer should be enjoined under I.R.C. § 7402(a) from interfering with the enforcement of the internal revenue laws. The injunction should include provisions barring Mayer from representing customers before the IRS, giving tax advice or providing tax services for compensation, or otherwise inciting violations of the internal revenue laws.

Appropriateness of Injunctive Relief

43. Unless enjoined by the Court, Mayer is likely to continue to engage in the conduct described in paragraphs 1 through 42.

44. Mayer's conduct, as described in paragraphs 1 through 42 of this complaint, results in irreparable harm to the United States for which the United States has no adequate remedy at law.

- a. Mayer's conduct, unless enjoined, is likely to cause a substantial loss of revenue to the Treasury. Unless Mayer is enjoined, the IRS will have to spend substantial time and resources to detect Mayer's customers, and may be unable to detect all of them;
- b. The detection and audit of taxpayers who have used Mayer's schemes will place a serious burden on the IRS's resources; and
- c. If Mayer is not enjoined, he likely will continue to engage in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. §§ 6700, 6701, 6694, and 6695, and other conduct that interferes with the enforcement of the internal revenue laws, thereby undermining the federal tax system.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, United States of America, prays for the following:

A. That the Court find that Mayer has engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. §§ 6694 and 6695, and that injunctive relief is appropriate under I.R.C. § 7407 to prevent Mayer

and his representatives, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with him from acting as income-tax-return preparers;

B. That the Court find that Mayer has engaged in conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. §§ 6700 and 6701, and that injunctive relief is appropriate under I.R.C. § 7408 to prevent him and anyone acting in concert with him from engaging in any further such conduct;

C. That the Court find that Mayer engaged in conduct that interferes with the enforcement of the internal revenue laws, and that injunctive relief against him and his representatives, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with him is appropriate to prevent the recurrence of that conduct under the Court's inherent equity powers and I.R.C. § 7402(a);

D. That the Court, under I.R.C. §§ 7402 and 7408, enter a permanent injunction prohibiting Mayer, and his representatives, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with him, from directly or indirectly:

- (1) Organizing, promoting, marketing, or selling (or assisting therein) any tax shelter, plan, or arrangement, including but not limited to abusive trusts and the § 861 position, or any other abusive tax shelter, plan or arrangement that incites taxpayers to attempt to violate the internal revenue laws or unlawfully evade the assessment or collection of their federal tax liabilities or unlawfully claim improper tax refunds;
- (2) Engaging in any conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6700, *i.e.*, making or furnishing, in connection with the organization or sale of an abusive shelter, plan, or arrangement, a statement they know or have reason to know is false or fraudulent as to any material matter;
- (3) Engaging in any conduct subject to penalty under I.R.C. § 6701, *i.e.*, assisting others in the preparation of any tax forms or other documents to be used in connection with any material matter arising under the internal revenue laws and which they know will (if so used) result in the understatement of income tax liability; and

- (4) Engaging in any conduct that interferes with the administration and enforcement of the internal revenue laws by the Internal Revenue Service, including but not limited to representing customers before the Internal Revenue Service, giving tax advice or providing tax services for compensation, and inciting others to violate the internal revenue laws;

E. That this Court, under I.R.C. §§ 7402, 7407, and 7408, enter an injunction requiring Mayer to contact all persons for whom Mayer and/or Legal Tax Newsletter, LC prepared and/or assisted in the preparation of any federal income tax returns or tax-related documents and inform those persons of the entry of the Court's findings concerning the falsity of the tax returns Mayer and/or Legal Tax Newsletter, LC prepared on these persons' behalf, the possibility of the imposition of penalties against them, and the fact that an injunction has been entered against Mayer.

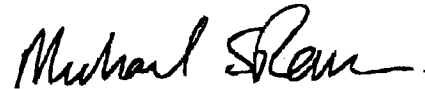
F. That this Court, under I.R.C. §§ 7402, 7407, and 7408, enter an injunction requiring Mayer and his representatives, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with him, including but not limited to Legal Tax Newsletter, LC and Morton & Oxley, to turn over to the United States any records in his possession or to which he has access, that identify (1) the persons to whom he gave or sold, directly or indirectly, any materials related to the tax schemes described above; (2) the persons who assisted in marketing or preparation of materials used by Mayer or written materials sent to potential customers; (3) any individuals or entities for whom Mayer, or his associates, prepared or assisted in the preparation of any tax-related documents, including claims for refund or tax returns; and (4) any individuals or entities who purchased or used any other tax shelter, plan, or arrangement in which Mayer has been involved;

G. That this Court allow the government full post-judgment discovery to monitor compliance with the injunction;

H. That this Court retain jurisdiction over this action for purposes of implementing and enforcing the final judgment and any additional orders necessary and appropriate to the public interest; and

I. That the Court grant the United States such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

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