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## **Bertke & Sparks, CPAs – We Fix Previously Prepared Returns**

Over the years, Bertke & Sparks' tax practice has grown as we welcome new clients who engage us to amend previously filed tax returns. Many of these returns were prepared using off-the-shelf tax preparation software, or seasonal tax preparation services or were self-prepared by hand. Following is a quick review of why clients may encounter problems with returns prepared under these circumstances.

### **Seasonal Tax Prep Service Providers**

Franchise tax preparation offices have such a high employee turnover rate that most of the people preparing your returns in an office like this are under-trained and under-experienced. These individuals are rarely experts in your industry or occupation, or even in the most current tax laws!

Ever wonder how much tax you might be overpaying by using one of these services? At Bertke and Sparks, your returns are examined by our highly trained and well seasoned team of professionals who are sure to determine your maximum legal deduction.

### **Doing Your Own Taxes and Tax Preparation Software**

We commend you! Preparing your tax return is simply a monumental task. With the amount of time and effort most people pour into doing their own taxes, one would think the results would be highly accurate.

Unfortunately, the substantial and ever-changing tax code makes your job difficult. It is so easy to miss filing certain forms now required by the IRS for many different deductions (unreimbursed employee expenses, college deductions and credits, etc.). And how about those "Phase-Out" ranges for some common deductions?

Many tax professionals agree that around 50% of all self-prepared returns are leaving money on the table. With years of experience, Bertke & Sparks, CPAs saved countless customers up to thousands of tax dollars each year. If you need to report anything more than simple W-2's and investment income, chances are good we can save you money too!

TurboTax and other tax preparation programs are what we call "coaches"... programs that guide you in preparing your own tax return. Though you are led through a series of questions and the program

"creates" your return, you still need a certain level of understanding about tax laws in order to maximize your deductions.

Another potential downfall of using packaged tax prep programs is that Congress has a habit of changing tax laws after your software has been made. For example, in February of 2009, a new law was passed allowing a first-time home buyers credit on your 2008 tax return even if you purchased the house in 2009. Thousands of Americans have missed this credit on their 2008 tax return!

## **Bertke & Sparks, CPAs – Here Today and All Year Long**

At Bertke & Sparks, CPAs, we offer confidence that your tax returns will be prepared by experienced professionals who will consider all recent tax changes and government incentives. Proper preparation of your corporate or individual tax return is of upmost importance to us and our experienced staff can ensure that your tax returns are in compliance with applicable IRS guidelines, while making sure that you enjoy the maximum benefit of your deductions.

Bertke and Sparks utilizes top of the line tax software which is continuously updated to incorporate all federal and state tax law changes. We also have access to the most up-to-date tax research software related to all tax legislative and judicial rulings.

More important than tax preparation is tax planning. We work proactively with our clients to ensure that they take advantage of any benefits offered through credits or deductions. We have helped numerous companies choose the proper entity structure, including cases where multiple companies and owners are involved. Our experience also includes multi-state issues, foreign ownership and partnerships.

Bertke & Sparks performs many types of financial services, not just taxes. Therefore, our doors are always open for tax questions, tax planning, and for any assistance you may need. While other tax preparation services are going to close their doors from May to December, Bertke and Sparks, CPAs will provide all your required accounting and tax needs year-round.