



California Society
of Tax Consultants

CSTC Reporter e-Newsletter

CSTC Newsletter

January 2025

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From the CSTC President

If you are anything like me, you were preparing to enjoy some quiet time with family when the powers that be decided to shake things up for us.

I was having a cocktail with my coworkers to celebrate the holidays when they dropped new proposed changes to Circular 230. As an ethics instructor, this is exciting news for me, since the last update to the ultimate guide to practitioner ethics was over a decade ago. You can check out the proposed changes here: [Federal Register :: Regulations Governing Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service](#)

The holiday cheer continued with the BOI rollercoaster. If you were following too closely you might have gotten whiplash as the injunction was stayed and then un-stayed before most clients opened the email telling them the reporting was back on.

Then, we got 115 pages of new final regulations on digital asset reporting! The gift that keeps on giving!

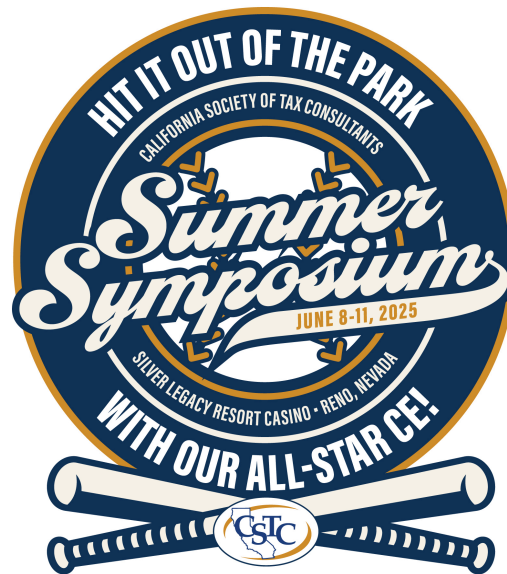
As all of this was happening, I couldn't help but think about how important it is to have a network of friends and colleagues to not only share information as it comes (I have one friend in particular who was scooping everyone), but also to help keep things in perspective when it seems out of control. It would have been easy to get overwhelmed with all of the information coming at us, but instead we were able to laugh our way through it.

Of all the member benefits that CSTC offers (and trust me, we are always working to add more), there will always be one that outshines all the rest: the members. You're probably sick of hearing me say this (though likely not as sick as you are of me asking for gift cards), but the true value of membership in this organization is the bonds that we form with our colleagues.

As we head into another tax season, I hope that you find time to connect with your fellow members. We're all in this together!

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Hall
President



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2025 SUMMER SYMPOSIUM!

JUNE 8 - 11, 2025

SILVER LEGACY RESORT CASINO

RENO, NEVADA

The California Society of Tax Consultants, Inc. (CSTC) has been a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting tax professionals across California since 1966 (formerly known as ISTC). CSTC is committed to providing high-quality education and exclusive member benefits. Whether you're a bookkeeper, accountant, CRTP, Enrolled Agent, or CPA, CSTC has something valuable to offer.

Our programs cover a wide range of tax topics, all approved for CTEC, EA, and CPA credit. Did you know you can earn *all* your CTEC credits for the year at the Symposium? That's right—federal, update, ethics, and California hours, all in one event!

And guess what? The popular Lunch and Learn sessions are back! Your registration includes both breakfast and lunch each day of the event.

With an outstanding lineup of speakers and topics, there's something for everyone, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned tax preparer.

We can't wait to see you in Reno! The CSTC Summer Tax Symposium is an event you won't want to miss!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER!](#)

Summer-Symposium Schedule-at-a-Glance

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, June 8, 2025</u></p>
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Registration Open; Exhibitor Set-up
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Welcome Reception for First-Time Attendees
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Welcome Reception (light appetizers will be served) This event is family-friendly. (Included with full registration. Guest registration is \$95)
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Monday, June 9, 2025</u></p>
7:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Registration and Exhibits
7:30 AM to 9:00 AM	IRS Breakfast Keynote Session Speaker: TBA
9:15 AM to 10:05 AM	Breakout Sessions:
	Track One: Breaking Down the Brokerage Statement Speaker: Shannon Hall, EA
	Track Two: Countdown to 2026 - Advising Estate Planning Clients Today! Speaker: Frank Acuña, Attorney at Law
	Track Three: Disaster Casualty Losses: Tax Implications Speaker: Jane Ryder, EA, CPA
10:05 AM to 10:20 AM	Coffee Break / Break with Exhibitors
10:20 AM to 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions:

	<p>Track One: Mastering the Tax Research Process: Analyzing Tax Authority Speaker: Tom Gorczynski, EA, USTCP</p>
	<p>Track Two: Intro to Representation Speaker: Josh Youngblood, EA</p>
	<p>Track Three: IRS Criminal Investigations for Non-Attorney Practitioners Speaker: LG Brooks, EA, CTRS</p>
12:00 PM to 1:20 PM	<p><i>Lunch and Learn: More information to come!</i></p>
1:20 PM to 3:00 PM	<p>Breakout Sessions:</p>
	<p>Track One: Mastering the Tax Research Process: Practical Applications Speaker: Tom Gorczynski, EA, USTCP</p>
	<p>Track Two: 1031 Exchanges Speaker: Ryan Reichert, EA, CFP</p>
	<p>Track Three: Improving Data Security through Strategic Client Communications Speaker: Brad Messner, EA</p>
3:00 PM to 3:20 PM	<p>Break with Exhibitors</p>
3:20 PM to 5:00 PM	<p>General Session: Individual Tax Update Speaker: Tom Gorczynski, EA, USTCP</p>
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM	<p>Reception with Exhibitors</p>
	<p><u>Tuesday, June 10, 2025</u></p>
7:00 AM to 5:00 PM	<p>Registration and Exhibits</p>
7:30 AM to 9:00 AM	<p>Franchise Tax Board Breakfast Keynote Session 2025 California Tax Updates Speaker: TBA</p>

9:15 AM to 10:05 AM	Breakout Sessions:
	Track One: The Power of the Research & Development Credit: Case Studies Speaker: Brad Messner, EA
	Track Two: Community Property Law Speaker: LG Brooks, EA, CTRS
	Track Three: Corporate Transparency Act: Navigating Beneficial Ownership Reporting Speaker: Josh Youngblood, EA
10:05 AM to 10:20 AM	Coffee Break / Break with Exhibitors
10:20 AM to 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions:
	Track One: The Gig Is Up: Handling Income in Unique Industries Speaker: Brad Messner, EA and Matt Metras, EA
	Track Two: Hit a Home Run With Your California Tax Update Speaker: Patty Barron, EA
	Track Three: Successful Audits for Individuals, Rentals & Business Speaker: Jane Ryder, EA, CPA
12:00 PM to 1:20 PM	2025 Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony Luncheon (Included with registration)
1:20 PM to 3:00 PM	Breakout Sessions:
	Track One: Tax Quest: The Ultimate Year-End Tax Planning Adventure Speaker: David Hilliard, EA, NTPI Fellow
	Track Two: California Property Tax Update Speaker: Frank Acuña, Attorney at Law
	Track Three: Intro to: FBAR, FATCA, and FinCEN Speaker: Claudia Stanley, CPA, EA
3:00 PM to 3:20 PM	Break with Exhibitors

3:20 PM to 5:00 PM	General Session: Business Tax Update Speaker: Ryan Reichert, EA, CFP
	<u>Wednesday, June 11, 2025</u>
7:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Registration and Exhibits
8:20 AM to 10:05 AM	Breakfast Keynote Session: Tax Stuff You Thought You Knew Speaker: Shannon Hall, EA and Ryan Reichert, EA, CFP
10:05 AM to 10:20 AM	Coffee Break / Break with Exhibitors
10:20 AM to 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions:
	Track One: Retirement Tax Playbook: Navigating Key Tax Changes and Opportunities Speaker: David Hilliard, EA, NTPI Fellow
	Track Two: Digital Assets 101 Speaker: Matt Metras, EA
	Track Three: Fundamentals of Business Tax Balance Sheets Speaker: Jane Ryder, EA, CPA
12:00 PM to 1:20 PM	<i>Lunch and Learn: More information to come!</i>
1:20 PM to 3:00 PM	General Session Stump the Tax Experts Speaker: Speaker Panel
3:00 PM to 3:20 PM	Break with Exhibitors
3:20 PM to 5:00 PM	General Session: 10 Commandments for Your Practice: Ethics Speaker: Claudia Stanley, CPA, EA
5:15 PM	Grand Prize Drawing

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER!](#)

Get your *Running Start* toward tax season by attending the:

UPDATE FOR 2024 RETURNS!



Update Isn't Just About What's New, It's About What Matters To Your Clients

Brass Tax Presentations is here to help you stay ahead of the curve with their comprehensive in-person Tax Update Seminar.

From understanding changes in tax laws to optimizing your clients' tax savings, this seminar is designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to handle the upcoming tax season confidently.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

18 Total Locations to Choose From:

Class starts promptly at 8:00 AM PST and ends at 4:30 PM PST. All locations include continental breakfast, lunch, and free parking.	
<u>Northern California</u>	<u>Date</u>
San Jose	December 9, 2024
San Francisco	December 10, 2024
Rohnert Park	December 11, 2024
Concord	December 12, 2024
Sacramento	December 13, 2024
Fresno	January 6, 2025
<u>Southern California</u>	<u>Date</u>
San Diego	November 25, 2024
Costa Mesa	December 2, 2024
Cerritos/Norwalk	December 3, 2024
Ontario	December 4, 2024

Burbank	December 5, 2024
Ventura	December 6, 2024
San Diego <i>Formerly Running Start</i>	January 9, 2025
El Cajon <i>Formerly Running Start</i>	January 10, 2025
Escondido <i>Formerly Running Start</i>	January 11, 2025
Torrance/Carson	January 13, 2025
Monrovia	January 14, 2025
Riverside	January 16, 2025

What You'll Learn:

- Stay up-to-date on the latest tax laws, court cases, revenue rulings, and more.
- Get an early look at new IRS and CA forms through line-by-line calculations and worksheets.
- Prepare your clients for expiring TCJA provisions.
- Updated Beneficial Ownership Reporting requirements.
- Understand relevant tax situations your clients are facing for 2024 and how to solve them.
- New information regarding the administration and procedures of the IRS.
- Understand new tax strategies applicable for the 2024 taxable year.
- Equip yourself with key tools, such as worksheets, flowcharts, and checklists, to simplify tax preparation.

What You Get...

- 400+ page manual
- Free FAST FACTS reference card!
- Free CA nonconformity reference card!
- Network with fellow tax professionals and gain valuable insights from industry experts.

Information you can use in the REAL WORLD!

Registration:

\$289 UNTIL 11/04/2024 - \$279 with CSTC promo code

\$309 AFTER 11/04/2024 - \$299 with CSTC promo code

Click the link below, or online at www.BrassTax.com or call (858) 487-2553

Use your local chapters promo code to receive \$10 off your registration, and earn money for CSTC Chapters!

CSTC Chapter	Promo Code
Temecula Valley Chapter	TEMVALCSTC
North County San Diego Chapter	NORTHCOUNTYCSTC
East County San Diego Chapter	EASTCOUNTYCSTC
San Diego Chapter	SANDIEGOCSTC
Orange County Chapter	OCCSTC
South Orange County Chapter	SOUTHOCSTC
San Jose Chapter	SANJOSECSTC
Central Valley Chapter	FRESNOCSTC
San Francisco Bay Chapter	SANFRANCSTC
Sacramento Chapter	SACRAMENTOCSTC
Los Angeles Chapter	LACSTC
Greater Long Beach Chapter	LONGBEACHCSTC
Inland Empire Chapter	INLANDEMPIRECSTC
Wine Country Chapter	WINECOUNTRYCSTC
San Gabriel Valley Chapter	SANGABRIELCSTC

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Presenters: Ryan Reichert, EA, CFP and Shannon Hall, EA

Ryan Reichert, EA , CFP

Ryan Reichert, EA, CFP, is a practicing tax professional from San Diego, California. His background in financial planning and business ownership makes him specially equipped to handle new and often complex tax laws. Ryan has a knack for breaking tax topics down into presentations that keep attendees engaged and learning throughout the whole day. He is also the owner of the client-facing publication *Tax News and Tips*.

Shannon Hall, EA

Shannon Hall, EA, is a tax professional based in Long Beach, CA. Her diverse client base keeps her on the cutting edge of new

tax developments. Shannon is a featured speaker for tax societies nationwide and serves on the California Society of Tax Consultants' board of directors. She was also recently nominated in the Top 50 Women in Accounting for 2023. She holds degrees in both Accounting and Theatre Arts, which aids her in creating captivating and informative tax presentations.

CPE Information:

8 CPE credits

IRS CPE Course Numbers:

UD2VU-U-00161-24-I

Self Study UD2VU-U-00161-24-S

CTEC Course Numbers:

1008-CE-1187

NASBA

Provider ID 142999

CPA credit for in-person attendance only

No prerequisites

Intermediate level

Field of study: Taxes

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Upcoming CSTC Chapter Events

January 15, 2025

Federal/California Latest Tax Update

Inland Empire Chapter Virtual Meeting

1 California hour(s) (Topics covering California law issues)

2 Federal Tax Update hour(s) (Topics covering new tax law)

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

January 18, 2025

2024 Federal & California Update

San Jose Chapter Virtual Meeting

3 Federal Tax Update hour(s) (Topics covering new tax law)

2 California hour(s) (Topics covering California law issues)

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

January 22, 2025

2024 Tax Update

Wine Country Chapter In-Person Meeting

2 Federal Tax Update hour(s) (Topics covering new tax law)

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

January 26, 2025

Round Table Discussion 2024 Tax Issues/Resolutions - Bring Your Tax Questions and Taxation Issues

Greater Long Beach Chapter In-Person Meeting

2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)

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

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

Welcome New CSTC Members!

Abigail Ballesteros

Temecula Valley Chapter

Cynthia Flores

Inland Empire Chapter

Nhan Nguyen

Orange County 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.



[Treasury and IRS propose regulations to update rules for tax professionals who can practice before the IRS](#)

IR-2024-315, Dec. 20, 2024 – The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued proposed regulations to update the rules for certain tax professionals who can practice before the IRS; these rules are contained in Treasury Department Circular 230.

[IRS announces special payments going this month to 1 million taxpayers who did not claim 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit; encourages non-filers about approaching deadline to claim credits](#)

IR-2024-314, Dec. 20, 2024 – As part of continuing efforts to help taxpayers, the Internal Revenue Service today announced plans to issue automatic payments later this month to eligible people who did not claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2021 tax returns.

[IRS requests feedback on draft Instructions for Form 6765, Credit for Increasing Research Activities](#)

IR-2024-313, Dec. 20, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced the release of draft Instructions for Form 6765, Credit for Increasing Research Activities, also known as the research credit.

[IRS increases the standard mileage rate for business use in 2025; key rate increases 3 cents to 70 cents per mile](#)

IR-2024-312, Dec. 19, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced that the optional standard mileage rate for automobiles driven for business will increase by 3 cents in 2025, while the mileage rates for vehicles used for other purposes will remain unchanged from 2024.

[Prepare to file in 2025: Get Ready for tax season with key updates, essential tips](#)

IR-2024-311, Dec. 19, 2024 – With the 2025 filing season quickly approaching, the Internal Revenue Service encouraged taxpayers to take key steps now to prepare for filing their 2024 federal income tax returns next year.

[IRS recovers billions in tax, financial criminal cases focused on drug trafficking, terrorist financing; launches new business online account features](#)

IR-2024-310, Dec. 12, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today provided the regular quarterly update to the Strategic Operating Plan, outlining key milestones in criminal investigations, improvements to taxpayer services and advancements in digital modernization that have transformed agency operations while protecting billions of taxpayer dollars.

[IRS urges many retirees to make required withdrawals from retirement plans by year-end deadline](#)

IR-2024-309, Dec. 10, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today reminded those aged 73 and older of the deadline to take required minimum distributions from individual retirement arrangements (IRAs) and other retirement plans, and highlighted updates introduced by the SECURE 2.0 Act.

[National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 5: Tax pros urged to guard against identity theft with updated Written Information Security Plan](#)

IR-2024-308, Dec. 6, 2024 – On the final day of National Tax Security Awareness Week, the Internal Revenue Service and its Security Summit partners urged tax professionals to reassess their plans for protecting themselves and their clients' sensitive information amid increasing attempts by identity thieves to steal tax data.

[IRS Criminal Investigation releases FY24 Annual Report; details agency's global reach, billion-dollar impact](#)

IR-2024-307, Dec. 5, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) released its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Annual Report today that details significant cases involving crimes ranging from tax fraud to cybercrime, enhanced domestic and foreign partnerships and investigative statistics from FY24 that took place from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024.

[National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 4: Security Summit urges updating digital security to protect businesses, taxpayers from identity theft scams](#)

IR-2024-306, Dec. 5, 2024 – Because identity thieves target the financial data of businesses and the self-employed using new schemes, the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners today urged companies and individual taxpayers to review and update their security measures and practices to guard against the latest scams.

[IRS requests applications for 2025 ETAAC membership](#)

IR-2024-305, Dec. 4, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service is accepting applications for the Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee (ETAAC) through Jan. 31, 2025.

[IRS alert: Charitable contribution scams on the rise; taxpayers beware of those promoting fraudulent schemes](#)

IR-2024-304, Dec. 4, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today warned taxpayers to avoid promoters of fraudulent tax schemes involving donations of ownership interests in closely held businesses, sometimes marketed as “Charitable LLCs.”

[National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 3: Guard against fraudsters with an IRS identity protection PIN](#)

IR-2024-303, Dec. 4, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners today encouraged taxpayers to add an extra layer of protection between their tax returns and identity thieves by joining the Identity protection personal identification number (IP PIN) program at the start of the 2025 tax season.

[National Tax Security Awareness Week, Day 2: IRS, Security Summit partners urge people to watch out for bad tax advice on social media](#)

IR-2024-302, Dec. 3, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners issued a consumer alert today about the growing threat of bad tax advice on social media that continues to dupe people into filing inaccurate tax returns.

[IRS announces 2025 grants for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program](#)

IR-2024-301, Dec. 2, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today the award of \$53 million in Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grants to organizations that provide free federal tax return preparation.

[IRS warns of holiday scams, encourages protecting sensitive personal information as 9th annual National Tax Security Awareness Week starts](#)

IR-2024-300, Dec. 2, 2024 – On Cyber Monday, the Internal Revenue Service and its Security Summit partners warned taxpayers to approach their holiday shopping with extra caution because scammers are also shopping – for their next victim’s personal information.

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
-

FOLLOW CSTC ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Our greatest Member benefits are the relationships you will build with other Members



The CSTC Member Listserv is an email address that forwards your email message to all who subscribe.

The CSTC Listserv is a great way to communicate quickly and easily with the subscribed members regarding business-related questions and requests for assistance.



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.



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



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



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



While Verifyle Pro is no longer offered for free, your CSTC membership gives you the ability to subscribe to Verifyle Gold for just \$15 per month (32% off the retail price), or Verifyle Platinum for just \$22 per month (55% off the retail price).



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 Exceleerate America.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS

