



# Anneken, Huey & Moser<sup>PLLC</sup>

Certified Public Accountants  
*Engaged. Responsive. Future-focused.*

Here's the Tax Beat broadcast for March 5. **Today marks the 15th year of these broadcasts!**

Subject Line: The *Other* Awards Show

Last weekend, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences celebrated itself at the 2025 Academy Awards. *Anora* filmmaker Sean Baker walked out the big winner, with Oscars for producing, writing, editing, and directing the year's Best Picture. He made history by becoming the first person to win four Oscars for the same film on the same night.

The IRS doesn't host anything quite so glamorous as the Oscars. There's no red carpet. There aren't any reporters asking who the stars are wearing (and for the IRS, it wouldn't be more glamorous than Kohl's). There aren't any all-night after-parties in Beverly Hills or Bel Air. But they do have their own awards list. Last week, the IRS released its [2025 Dirty Dozen](#) list: "the worst of the worst tax scams."

This year's Number One offender is the Kansas City Chiefs of tax scams—love them or loathe them, they're always in the post-season. It's "Email Phishing Scams." And for those in the know, they're easy to avoid. If the IRS ever needs to talk with you, they'll reach out with good old snail mail. (Remember that?) They won't email you except in specific ongoing cases. And they won't call you or text you to say, "You owe us \$31,000, and if you don't pay by tomorrow, we're calling the cops."

Still, countless people have fallen for scam emails and texts leading to identity theft. The IRS currently has a backlog of 500,000 cases taxing its resources. The average case takes nearly two years to resolve. And with the Service firing 7,000 employees last month, that process won't get any easier anytime soon.

This year's Number Two offender is new, and it's a timely warning in this age of social media disinformation. Specifically, the Service wants you to be aware of "Bad Social Media Advice." We know you're shocked to learn there's bad advice floating around online and in apps. But it's true! "Social media platforms routinely circulate inaccurate or misleading tax information, including on TikTok where people share wildly inaccurate tax advice." While we love to see spicy language from the IRS, "wildly inaccurate" is quite the understatement!

Sometimes, social media claims are incomplete. Yes, you can deduct 100% of your new pickup truck, *if* you use it 100% for business. (But you'll have to recapture whatever proceeds you get from selling it down the road.) Sometimes, claims are exaggerated—the Augusta Rule won't make you rich. And sometimes, they're just plain garbage. No, you can't write off your spouse's vacation costs simply by making them a director of your company.

The rest of the Dirty Dozen list includes suspects like fake charities, false fuel tax credits, an overhyped pandemic-era credit for sick leave and family leave, improper household employment taxes, and the “overstated withholding scam.”

At the same time, some of the previous offenders have dropped from the list. “Abusive micro-captive insurance arrangements”? Gone. “Improper monetized installment sales”? Out. Syndicated conservation easements, Malta pension plans? Gone and gone.

That doesn’t mean the IRS isn’t still watching out for those sorts of offenders. It’s interesting, though, that this year’s list moves away from complex strategies pitched towards higher-income filers and focuses more on outright scams targeting middle-American families. Apparently, there aren’t a lot of billionaires getting their tax advice from TikTok.

There’s a really easy way to find out if the claims you see on social media are true. Just ask us! We’ll probably get a good laugh out of them, too. 2025 is going to be a big year for tax planning, and there will be lots of misinformation circulating through the interwebs. Count on us to make sense of it all!

Kevin

