

Bringing Employee Benefit Plan Audits Into Focus

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GG&G News - Employee Benefit Plan Audits

Tax Credits Available in Federal Empowerment Zones

By Dana Fortini, Supervisor at Gray, Gray & Gray, LLP

If your business is located in an economically distressed location, you may be able to apply for significant tax credits if you have employees who live and work in what is known as a federally-designated "Empowerment Zone." But you have to hurry!

Empowerment Zones were introduced in 1993 as part of a federal government effort to reduce unemployment and generate economic growth in

distressed cities and regions. Businesses in Empowerment Zones were offered federal tax incentives and the awarding of grants to encourage hiring and participation in the plan. Although the original program ended in 2011, it was revived again through the American Taxpayer Relief Act in 2013, but expired again at the end of the year.

Click here to learn more.

Timely Opportunities

Equity Crowdfunding Could Affect Private Business Values



If private equity crowdfunding catches on, it could affect business values by exposing firms to bigger pools of prospective investors. It also could alter expected cash flows. But what comes first: The value of a business or the offer price? Some might argue these values are interrelated. So why haven't we seen an explosion of private equity crowdfunding offers yet? Copyright © 2014

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Will March Bring Madness to the Workplace?



"Selection Sunday" tips off on March 16! With 68 college teams playing over three weeks, the 2014 NCAA men's basketball tournament is likely to be a workplace distraction. Proactive employers develop and communicate a March Madness game plan.

Who are the highest paid NCAA coaches? We'll tell you inside. Copyright © 2014



Employee Benefits

Being Prepared Helps Ensure Successful HSA Rollout



Making the switch from a traditional health care plan to health savings accounts (HSAs) might confuse your employees. But once they know how HSAs work, they might like them even better than traditional health coverage. The key is to lay a foundation of information in advance. Continue reading for some considerations to help successfully implement an HSA plan at your company.

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Benefit Tax Issues

Decrease the Chance of an IRS Audit



Reports indicate the IRS is conducting more audits involving executive compensation and fringe benefits. What exactly are auditors looking for? The IRS recently provided its examiners with guides spelling out how to uncover taxable fringe benefits which were not included in an executive's wages. Keep reading for information from these IRS internal audit guides about issues that could trigger an examination.

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Retirement Plans

Study: 403(b) Plan Trends in Health Care and Higher Education



You may have noticed some similarities between 401(k) plans and 403(b) plans lately. This explains why sponsors outside of not-for-profit agencies are taking a closer look at 403(b)s. Find out what research shows about these two plan types and who is reconsidering their options.

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