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The Return of Printed Social Security Statements



By Daniel C. Romano, CPA, PFS Partner at Gray, Gray & Gray, LLP

Back in 2011, the federal government, in an effort to save money, stopped printing and mailing annual Social Security benefit estimate statements. Those paying into the program could still get their estimated benefits information online, but relatively few taxpayers registered. Last year Congress passed a bill requiring Social Security to resume the mailing of printed statements every five years for most (but not all) participants age 25 and older, and annually for those 60 and older. Read more here.

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Last Chance to Register: Gray, Gray & Gray's 2014 Year-End Planning Seminar



The Registration Deadline for Gray, Gray & Gray's 2014 Year-End Planning Seminar is TODAY - October 15th! If you haven't registered yet, please click here now.

There are many changes coming to corporate and individual taxes this year, and our annual Year-End Planning Seminar will let you know what to expect. The leaders in Boston's accounting, tax, legal, and investment communities will go "beyond the numbers" to provide an in-depth look at issues and opportunities in taxation, estate planning, employment law, and wealth management. Don't miss this chance to get a seat at the table for the latest ideas in planning for success!

October 29, 2014 - Canton, MA *Exclusively for Clients* November 3, 2014 - Westborough, MA

November 6, 2014 - Canton, MA

Click here to learn more and to register today.

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Timely Opportunities

Are You Ready to Play the Charitable Giving Game?



Qualified charitable contributions support worthy, recognized causes. They can also lower taxes if you play by the IRS rules. A recent U.S. Tax Court case reminds taxpayers about the strict substantiation requirements. This article also discusses charitable giving trends, including a surprising income-giving gap, a decline in corporate donations, and the most (and least) generous places to live.

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Employee Benefits

Tighter Control for Purchases Made With FSA Debit Cards



Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) can provide a real boost to health care consumers. And using them is even easier when combined with debit cards that accountholders use to make health care purchases. But without a significant control system, it's also easy to subvert the purpose of an FSA. That's why certain retailers are required to use an inventory system that limits purchases to FSA-eligible goods only.

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Benefit Tax Issues

Don't Panic If You Receive a Benefit Audit Notice



The word "audit" strikes fear in the hearts of many company executives. But if your ducks are in a row, don't sweat it. It's in everyone's interest to make the process go smoothly, which is why the IRS provides tips for an efficient benefit plan audit. Read on to find out what the IRS recommends.

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Retirement Plans

Target Date Funds: What You Need to Look For



Many employers and employees rely too heavily on their 401(k) plans when those plans are based on target dates for retirement. It would be nice to just pick a fund and put it on auto-pilot, but it's not really that simple. You still need to have a healthy understanding of the fund you are in or that your company is in. As a fiduciary, your responsibilities are not satisfied so easily. Keep reading to learn what the Labor Department says about target date funds.

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