Tax Procedure and Tax Fraud

in a nutshell

CAMILLA E. WATSON

4th EDITION

WEST

TAX PROCEDURE AND TAX FRAUD IN A NUTSHELL

Fourth Edition



Professor of Law University of Georgia



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For my husband and best friend, Alan Watson

III

PREFACE

Federal tax practice and procedure is a burgeoning and ever more important area of the tax law. Many tax cases are won or lost on procedural grounds alone, and an increasing number of law schools are incorporating tax procedure courses into their curricula. This book is intended as a supplement to the various casebooks and treatises on federal tax practice and procedure, especially Federal Tax Practice and Procedure by Watson and Billman. This book summarizes the legal rules and provides a broad overview of the federal tax practice and procedure area in both the civil context and the criminal context. It also occasionally inquires into the policy behind the law and points out conflicts among the circuits and gaps in the law. However, this book is not intended to provide an exhaustive analysis of the law or its historical development.

Federal tax practice and procedure is divided into two general categories: civil and criminal. The majority of the book (the first fifteen chapters) is devoted to the civil aspect of tax practice. The general organization of this new edition follows that of the Third Edition. In the interim between the two editions, however, there were three tax acts that made changes to the tax practice and procedure area and there were several important U.S.

PREFACE

Supreme Court cases that provided clarification on issues, some of which had been longstanding.

The last four chapters of this book are devoted to the criminal aspect of tax practice and procedure. These chapters cover the investigation of tax crimes, the substantive offenses (under Titles 11, 18 and 26 of the U.S.C.), likely defenses, and important procedural aspects of criminal tax practice, focusing on Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights. In this Fourth Edition, the material under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines is more fully developed because the law had begun to change at the time of the Third Edition and there were numerous questions about how it would be interpreted by the courts. Decisions between then and now have shed some light on these questions.

Athens, Georgia October 2011

References are to Pages

A

Adlman, United States v., 134 F.3d 1194 (2d Cir. 1998), 78

American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corp. v. United States, 318 F.2d 915 (Ct.Cl.1963), 139

Anastasato v. Commissioner, 794 F.2d 884 (3d Cir. 1986), 294

Anderson, United States v., 618 F.2d 487 (8th Cir. 1980), 389

Andresen v. Maryland, 427 U.S. 463, 96 S.Ct. 2737, 49 L.Ed.2d 627 (1976), 355

Angelus Milling Co. v. Commissioner, 325 U.S. 293, 65 S.Ct. 1162, 89 L.Ed. 1619 (1945), 140

Apprendi v. New Jersey, 530 U.S. 466, 120 S.Ct. 2348, 147 L.Ed.2d 435, 397, 398

Armstrong v. Commissioner, 15 F.3d 970 (10th Cir. 1994), 270

Arthur Young & Co., United States v., 465 U.S. 805, 104 S.Ct. 1495, 79 L.Ed.2d 826 (1984), 78–79

Automobile Club of Michigan v. Commissioner, 353 U.S. 180, 77 S.Ct. 707, 1 L.Ed.2d 746 (1957), 37

\mathbf{B}

Badaracco v. United States, 464 U.S. 386, 104 S.Ct. 756, 78 L.Ed.2d 549 (1984), 102, 129, 178–179, 325

Baggott, United States v., 463 U.S. 476, 103 S.Ct. 3164, 77 L.Ed.2d 785 (1983), 353

Baker v. United States, 748 F.2d 1465 (11th Cir.1984), acq. 1995–33 I.R.B. 4, 38

Ballard v. Commissioner, 544 U.S. 40, 125 S.Ct. 1270, 161 L.Ed.2d 227 (2005), 274

- Baral v. United States, 528 U.S. 431 (2000), 120 S.Ct. 1006, 145 L.Ed.2d 949, 144
- Barrett v. United States, 795 F.2d 446 (5th Cir. 1986), rev'd by 951 F.3d 475 (5th Cir.1995), 91
- Barrett, United States v., 837 F.2d 1341(5th Cir. 1988), (en banc), cert. denied, 492 U.S. 926, 109 S.Ct. 3264 (1989), 337–338
- Beacon Brass Co., United States v., 344 U.S. 43, 73 S.Ct. 77, 97 L.Ed. 61(1952), 414
- Beard v. Commissioner, 82 T.C. 766, 777 (1984), aff'd 793 F.2d 139 (6th Cir. 1986), 97–98, 127
- Beckwith v. United States, 425 U.S. 341, 96 S.Ct. 1612, 48 L.Ed.2d 1 (1976), 319–320
- Bennett v. Commissioner, 30 T.C. 114, 1958 WL 969 (1958), acq., 1958–2 C.B. 3, 128
- Bishop, United States v., 412 U.S. 346, 93 S.Ct. 2008, 36 L.Ed.2d 941 (1973), 367, 368, 394, 411
- Blackston v. United States, 778 F. Supp. 244 (D. Md. 1991), 192
 Blakely v. Washington, 542 U.S. 296, 124 S.Ct. 2531, 159 L.Ed.2d 403 (2004), 397
- Blockburger v. United States, 284 U.S. 299, 52 S.Ct. 180, 76 L.Ed. 306 (1932), 359
- Blount v. Commissioner, 86 T.C. 383, 1986 WL 22095 (1986), 127-128
- Booker, United States v., 543 U.S. 220, 125 S.Ct. 738, 160 L.Ed.2d 621 (2005), 398
- Bookwalter v. Brecklein, 357 F.2d 78 (8th Cir.1966), 40
- Botany Worsted Mills v. United States, 278 U.S. 282, 49 S.Ct. 129, 73 L.Ed. 379 (1929), 118
- Boulware v. United States, 552 U.S. 421, 128 S.Ct. 1168, 170 L.Ed.2d 34 (2008), 372
- Boyd v. United States, 116 U.S. 616, 6 S.Ct. 524, 29 L.Ed. 746 (1886), 357
- Boyle, United States v., 469 U.S. 241, 105 S.Ct. 687, 83 L.Ed.2d 622 (1985), 160
- Branerton Corp. v. Commissioner, 61 T.C. 691,1974 WL 2703 (1974), 286
- Braswell v. United States, 487 U.S. 99, 108 S.Ct. 2284, 101 L.Ed.2d 98 (1988), 358
- Braxtonbrown-Smith, United States v., 278 F.3d 1348 (D.C. 2000), 392

- Brockamp, United States v., 519 U.S. 347, 117 S.Ct. 849, 136 L.Ed.2d 818 (1997), 155
- Bull v. United States, 295 U.S. 247, 55 S.Ct. 695, 79 L.Ed. 1421 (1935). 153
- Bursten v. United States, 395 F.2d 976, 981 (5th Cir. 1968), 412
- Burton, United States v., 737 F.2d 439 (5th Cir. 1984), 407
- Busher, United States v, 817 F.2d 1409 (9th Cir. 1987), 389, 390 Busher, United States v., 872 F.2d 431 (9th Cir. 1989), 390

\mathbf{C}

- Caceres, United States v., 440 U.S. 741, 99 S.Ct. 1465, 59 L.Ed.2d 733 (S.Ct.1979), 25, 319
- Campbell v. Commissioner, T.C.Memo. 1988-105 (1988), 262
- Campise v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 1980-130 (1980), 127
- Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered v. United States, 491U.S. 617, 109 S.Ct. 2646, 105 L.Ed.2d 512 (1989), 360
- Carlson, United States v., 617 F.2d 518 (9th Cir. 1980), 356, 377
 Carter, Estate of, v. Commissioner, 453 F.2d 61 (2d Cir. 1971), 257
- Cellura v. United States, 245 F.Supp. 379 (N.D.Ohio 1965), 248
- Cheek v. United States, 498 U.S. 192, 111 S.Ct. 604, 112 L.Ed.2d 617 (1991), $369-370,\ 402-403$
- Cheek, United States v., 3 F.3d 1057 (3d Cir. 1993), cert. denied 510 U.S. 1112 (1994), 400
- Chertkof v. United States, 676 F.2d 984 (4th Cir. 1982), 148
- Cheshire v. Commissioner, 282 F.3d 326 (5th Cir. 2002), 238
- Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 467 U.S. 837, 104 S.Ct. 2778, 81 L.Ed.2d 694 (1984), 18–22
- Church of Scientology of California v. IRS, 792 F.2d 146 (D.C.Cir. 1986), 94
- Cohen Grocery Co., United States v., 255 U.S. 81, 41 S.Ct. 298, 65 L.Ed. 516 (1921), 404, 405
- Colestock v. Commissioner, 102 T.C. 380, 1994 WL 59262 (1994), 131
- The Colony, Inc. v. Commissioner, 357 U.S. 28, 78 S.Ct. 1033, 2 L.Ed.2d 1119 (1958), 16, 17, 130
- Commissioner v. _____ (see opposing party)
- Coolidge v. New Hampshire, 403 U.S. 443, 91 S.Ct. 2022, 29 L.Ed.2d 564 (1971), 355

- Craft, United States v., 535 U.S. 274, 122 S.Ct. 1414, 152 L.Ed.2d 437 (2002), 195–196
- Curtis, United States v., 782 F.2d 593, 599–600 (6th Cir. 1986), 408

D

Dahlstrom, United States v., 713 F.2d 1423, 1428 (9th Cir. 1983), cert. denied 466 U.S. 980 (1984), 409–410

Dalm, United States v., 494 U.S. 596, 110 S.Ct. 1361, 108 L.Ed.2d 548 (1990), 153, 154

Daly, United States v., 756 F.2d 1076 (5th Cir. 1985), 407

Daly, United States v., 481 F.2d 28 (8th Cir. 1973), 377

Danville Plywood Corp. v. United States, 16 Cl.Ct. 584 (1989), aff'd 899 F.2d 3 (Fed. Cir. 1990), 289

Davey, United States v., 543 F.2d 996, 1000 (2d Cir. 1976), 336

Dishman Independent Oil, Inc., United States v., 46 F.3d 523 (6th Cir. 1995), 199

Dixon v. United States, 381 U.S. 68, 85 S.Ct. 1301, 14 L.Ed.2d 223 (1965), 34, 37

Doe, United States v., 465 U.S. 605, 104 S.Ct. 1237, 79 L.Ed.2d 552 (1984), 357, 358

Donaldson v. United States, 400 U.S. 517, 91 S.Ct. 534, 27 L.Ed.2d 580 (1971), 347–348

Douglas v. Commissioner, 86 T.C. 758, 1986 WL 22118 (1986), 235

\mathbf{E}

Easterday v. United States, 564 F.3d 1004 (9th Cir. 2009), 413 Edwards, United States v., 777 F.2d 644 (11th Cir. 1985), 377 El Paso Co., United States v., 682 F.2d 530 (5th Cir. 1982), 78 Emmons v. Commissioner, 92 T.C. 342 (1989), 125

Estate of (see name of party)

Evergreens v. Nunan, 141 F.2d 927, 928–29 (2d Cir. 1944), 299

\mathbf{F}

Fanfan, United States v., 542 U.S. 963, 125 S.Ct. 542, 159 L.Ed.2d 854(D. Me. 2004), 398

XXIV

Fern, United States v., 696 F.2d 1269 (9th Cir. 1983), 388

Fisher v. United States, 425 U.S. 391, 408, 96 S.Ct. 1569, 48 L.Ed.2d 39 (1976), 355–356, 357

Flora v. United States, 362 U.S. 145, 80 S.Ct. 630, 647, 4 L.Ed.2d 623 (1960), 276

Freytag v. Commissioner, 501 U.S. 868, (1991), 111 S.Ct. 2631, 115 L.Ed.2d 764, 261

Frieling v. Commissioner, 81 T.C. 42, 1983 WL 14911 (1983), 267 Frisch v. Commissioner, 87 T.C. 838, 1986 WL 22038 (1986), 307

G

Garber, United States v., 607 F.2d 92 (5th Cir. 1979)(en banc), 405–408, 409

Gardiner v. United States, 391 F.Supp. 1202 (D.Utah 1975), aff'd, 536 F.2d 903 (10th Cir.1976), 151

Garner v. United States, 424 U.S. 648, 96 S.Ct. 1178, 47 L.Ed.2d 370 (1976), 356

Gaudin, United States v., 515 U.S. 506, 115 S.Ct. 2310, 132 L.Ed.2d 444 (1995), 378–379

Georgia Federal Bank, F.S.B. v. Commissioner, 98 T.C. 105 (1992), 20

Goldberger & Dubin, United States v., 935 F.2d 501, 503 (2d Cir. 1991), 84

Golsen v. Commissioner, 54 T.C. 742, 1970 WL 2191 (1970), 272 Greenberg, United States v., 735 F.2d 29 (2d Cir. 1984), 379, 380 Grieb v. Commissioner, 36 T.C. 156, 1961 WL 1117 (1961), 242

Grunwald v. Commissioner, 86 T.C. 85, 89, 1986 WL 22077 (1986), 133

H

Hall v. United States, 975 F.2d 722 (10th Cir. 1992), 147

Halper, United States v., 490 U.S. 435, 109 S.Ct. 1892, 104 L.Ed.2d 487 (1989), 360

Harris, United States v., 942 F.2d 1125 (7th Cir. 1991), 406, 409 Harrison v. Commissioner, T.C.Memo. 1979–45, 266

Heller v. Plave, 657 F.Supp. 95 (S.D. Fla. 1987), 91

Helmsley, United States v., 941 F.2d 71 (2d Cir. 1991), 318, 366

Holland v. United States, 348 U.S. 121, 75 S.Ct. 127, 99 L.Ed. 150 (1954), 373, 379

Holof v. Commissioner, 872 F.2d 50 (3rd Cir. 1989), 134

Hooks, United States v., 848 F.2d 785 (7th Cir. 1988), 382

House, United States v., 617 F.Supp. 240 (W.D.Mich.1985), 365

Hubbell, United States v., 530 U.S. 27, 120, 120 S.Ct. 2037, 147 L.Ed.2d 24 (2000), 358

Hughes Tool Co. v. Meier, 489 F.Supp. 333 (D. Utah 1977), 298 Hunt v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 1988–360 (1988), 240

I

Ingredient Technology Co., United States v., 698 F.2d 88, 97 (2d Cir. 1983), cert. denied 462 U.S. 1131 (1983), 408

International Business Machines Corp. v. United States, 343
 F.2d 914 (Ct.Cl.1965), cert. denied 382 U.S. 1028 (1966), 39
 Irvine, United States v., 699 F.2d 43 (1st Cir. 1983), 319

J

Jalbert, United States v., 504 F.2d 892 (1st Cir. 1974), 412
 James v. United States, 366 U.S. 213, 81 S.Ct. 1052, 6 L.Ed.2d 246 (1961), 404–405

Jersey Shore State Bank v. United States, 479 U.S. 442, 107 S.Ct. 782, 93 L.Ed.2d 800 (1987), 255

Johnson v. Sawyer, 120 F.3d 1307, 1323 (5th Cir. 1997), 93 Jose, United States v., 131 F.3d 1325 (9th Cir. 1997), 338

K

Kanter, Estate of v. Commissioner, 544 U.S. 40, 125 S.Ct. 1270, 161 L.Ed.2d. 227 (2005), 274

 Keado v. United States, 853 F.2d 1209 (5th Cir. 1988), 266
 Kimball, United States v., 925 F.2d 356 (9th Cir. 1991)(en banc), 377

Klein, United States v., 247 F.2d 908 (2d Cir. 1957), cert. denied 355 U.S. 924 (1958), 386–387

 Kontny, United States v., 238 F.3d 815 (7th Cir. 2001), 319, 320
 Kotmair v. Commissioner, 86 T.C. 1253, 1986 WL 22144 (1986), 300

Kretchmar v. United States, 9 Cl.Ct. 191 (Cl.Ct.1985), 119

L

Lampert v. United States, 854 F.2d 335 (9th Cir. 1988), cert. denied 490 U.S. 1034, 109 S.Ct. 1931, 104 L.Ed.2d 403 (1989), 92

LaSalle National Bank, United States v., 437 U.S. 298, 98 S.Ct. 2357, 57 L.Ed.2d 221 (1978), 340, 341

Lesavoy Foundation v. Commissioner, 238 F.2d 589 (3d Cir. 1956), 37

Leventhal, United States v., 961 F.2d 936 (11th Cir. 1992), 84 Levy, United States v., 533 F.2d 969, 974 (5th Cir. 1976), 336

Lewis v. Reynolds, 284 U.S. 281, 52 S.Ct. 145, 76 L.Ed. 293

(1932), 138, 146, 286, 292, 293 Llorente v. Commissioner, 649 F.2d 152 (2d Cir. 1981), 294, 295 Louis v. Commissioner, 170 F.3d 1232 (9th Cir. 1999), 360

M

Mallas, United States v., 762 F.2d 361 (4th Cir. 1985), 408, 409
 Mangan, United States v., 575 F.2d 32 (2d Cir. 1978), cert. denied 439 U.S. 931 (1978), 389

Manocchio v. Commissioner, 710 F.2d 1400 (9th Cir.1983), 38
Massei, United States v., 355 U.S. 595, 78 S.Ct. 495, 2 L.Ed.2d 517 (1958), 374

Mathis v. United States, 391 U.S. 1 (1968), 320

Matut v. Commissioner, 858 F.2d 683 (11th Cir.1988), 217

Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research v. United States, 131 S.Ct. 704 (2011), 21, 22

McCaffrey, United States v., 181 F.3d 854 (7th Cir. 1999), 412

McKay v. Commissioner, 89 T.C. 1063, 1987 WL 45785 (1987), aff'd, 886 F.2d 1237 (9th Cir.1989), 267, 268

McLamb, United States v., 985 F.2d 1284 (4th Cir. 1993), 393

McPherson, United States v., 840 F.2d 244 (4th Cir. 1988), rev'g 660 F.Supp. 298 (M.D.N.C.1987), 307

Mead Corporation, United States v., 533 U.S. 218, 121 S.Ct. 2164, 150 L.Ed.2d 292 (2001), 20-21

Meier v. Commissioner, 91 T.C. 273, 1988 WL 85980 (1988), 297–298, 299

- Menard, Inc. v. Commissioner, 130 T.C. 54 (2008), 154, 261
- Mickler v. Fahs, 243 F.2d 515 (5th Cir.1957), 301
- Millman, United States v., 765 F.2d 27 (2d Cir. 1985), 344
- Minahan v. Commissioner, 88 T.C. 492, 1987 WL 49279 (1987)(reviewed), 307, 310
- Ming, Jr., Estate of v. Commissioner, 62 T.C. 519 (1974), 262
- Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436, 86 S.Ct. 1602, 16 L.Ed.2d 694 (1966), 321
- Missouri Pacific Railroad v. United States, 338 F.2d 668, 670–71 (Ct. Cl. 1964), 293
- Mistretta v. United States, 488 U.S. 361, 109 S.Ct. 647, 102 L.Ed.2d 714 (1989), 397
- Montana v. United States, 440 U.S. 147, 99 S.Ct. 970, 59 L.Ed.2d 210 (1979), 297, 299
- Monumental Life Insurance Co., United States v., 440 F.3d 729 (6th Cir. 2006), 338
- Morgan v. United States, 958 F.2d 950 (9th Cir. 1992), 217
- Morton v. Ruiz, 415 U.S. 199, 94 S.Ct. 1055, 39 L.Ed.2d 270 (1974), 25
- Mueller, Estate of v. Commissioner, 101 T.C. 551 (1993) (overruled on appeal), 261
- Mueller, Estate of v. Commissioner, 153 F.3d 302 (6th Cir. 1998), rev'g 101 T.C. 551 (1993), 261
- Mulvania v. Commissioner, 81 T.C. 65, 1983 WL 14912 (1983), 267
- Mulvania v. Commissioner, 769 F.2d 1376 (9th Cir. 1985), aff'g 1984-98 TCM, 267-268
- Murdock, United States v., 290 U.S. 389, 54 S.Ct. 223, 78 L.Ed. 381 (1933), 366, 367

N

- National Bank of Commerce, United States v., 472 U.S. 713, 105 S.Ct. 2919, 86 L.Ed.2d 565 (1985), 208
- National Muffler Dealers Assoc., Inc. v. United States, 440 U.S. 472, 99 S.Ct. 1304, 59 L.Ed.2d 519 (1979), 17, 18, 20
- Neder v. United States, 527 U.S. 1, 119 S.Ct. 1827, 144 L.Ed.2d 35 (1999), 379
- Neff, United States v., 615 F.2d 1235 (9th Cir. 1980), 356
- Nelon v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo 1997–49, 1997 WL 30343, 173

Newman, Commissioner v., 159 F.2d 848, 851 (2d Cir. 1947), 311
Nunan, United States v., 236 F.2d 576, 585 (2d Cir. 1956), cert. denied, 353 U.S. 912 (1957), 365

O

O'Brien v. United States, 766 F.2d 1038 (7th Cir.1985), 151

P

Parklane Hosiery Co. v. Shore, 439 U.S. 322, 99 S.Ct. 645, 58 L.Ed.2d 552 (1979), 297, 298

Peck v. Commissioner, 90 T.C. 162, 1988 WL 4698 (1988), 299

Pickel v. United States, 746 F.2d 176 (3d Cir. 1984), 341

Pomponio, United States v., 429 U.S. 10, 97 S.Ct. 22, 50 L.Ed.2d 12 (1976), 368, 409

Powell, United States v., 379 U.S. 48, 85 S.Ct. 248, 13 L.Ed.2d 112 (1964), 339, 341

Provident National Bank v. United States, 507 F.Supp. 1197 (E.D.Pa.1981), 147

\mathbf{R}

- Raskob v. Commissioner, 37 B.T.A. 1283 (1938), aff'd sub nom. Dupont v. Commissioner, 118 F.2d 544 (3d Cir.), cert. denied, 314 U.S. 623 (1941), 285
- Reisman v. Caplin, 375 U.S. 440, 84 S.Ct. 508, 11 L.Ed.2d 459 (1964), 337
- Rite Aid Corp. v. United States, 255 F.3d 1357 (Fed. Cir. 2001), 16
- Rodgers, United States v., 461 U.S. 677, 103 S.Ct. 2132, 76 L.Ed.2d 236 (1983), 194, 195, 204, 230
- Rogers v. Commissioner, T.C.Memo. 1987-374 (1987), 309
- Romani (Estate of), United States v., 523 U.S. 517, 118 S.Ct. 1478, 140 L.Ed.2d 710 (1998), 200
- Roszkos v. Commissioner, 850 F.2d 514 (9th Cir.1988), cert. denied 489 U.S. 1012, 109 S.Ct. 1121 (1989), rev'g 87 T.C. 1255, 1986 WL 22057 (1986) (reviewed), 133, 134
- Roth v. United States, 779 F.2d 1567 (11th Cir.1986), 247-248

- Rothensies v. Electric Storage Battery Co., 329 U.S. 296, 67 S.Ct. 271, 91 L.Ed. 296(1946), 153
- Rowan Cos. v. United States, 452 U.S. 247, 101 S.Ct. 2288, 68 L.Ed.2d 814 (1981), 16
- Russell, United States v., 804 F.2d 571, 576 (9th Cir. 1986), 410
 Rylander, United States v., 460 U.S. 752, 103 S.Ct. 1548, 75
 L.Ed.2d 521 (1983), 337

\mathbf{S}

- Sansone v. United States, 380 U.S. 343, 85 S.Ct. 1004, 13 L.Ed.2d 882 (1965), 365, 394
- Scar v. Commissioner, 814 F.2d 1363 (9th Cir. 1987), rev'g 81 T.C. 855 (1983), 262
- Schoeberlein, United States v., 335 F.Supp. 1048 (D. Md. 1971), 337
- Schulman, United States v., 817 F.2d 1355, 1359 (9th Cir. 1987), 410
- Sells Engineering, Inc., United States v., 463 U.S. 418, 423, 103 S.Ct. 3133, 77 L.Ed.2d 743 (1983), 349, 354
- Shortt Accountancy Corp., United States v., 785 F.2d 1448 (9th Cir. 1986), 380–381
- Skidmore v. Swift & Co., 323 U.S. 134, 65 S.Ct. 161, 89 L.Ed. 124 (1944), 17, 18, 20
- Slodov v. United States, 436 U.S. 238, 250, 98 S.Ct. 1778, 56 L.Ed.2d 251 (1978), 245
- Smith v. Commissioner, 91 T.C. 1049, 1988 WL 130812 (1988) (reviewed), 178
- Smith, United States v., 418 F.2d 589 (5th Cir.1969), 140
- Sommer v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 1983–196 (1983), 127
- Spies v. United States, 317 U.S. 492, 63 S.Ct. 364, 87 L.Ed. 418 (1943), 362, 364, 365, 367, 370
- Spruill (Estate of) v. Commissioner, 88 T.C. 1197, 1987 WL 49324 (1987), 176
- Steele v. United States, 280 F.2d 89 (8th Cir. 1960), 276
- Stein, United States v., 541 F.3d 130 (2d Cir. 2009), 316
- Stern, Commissioner v., 357 U.S. 39, 78 S.Ct. 1047, 2 L.Ed.2d 1126 (1958), 240
- Stone v. White, 301 U.S. 532, 57 S.Ct. 851, 81 L.Ed. 1265 (1937), 153
- Straus v. United States, 196 F.3d 862 (7th Cir. 1999), 200

XXX