The Ultimate Rip-Off: A Taxing Tale

The Ultimate Rip-Off: A Taxing Tale is fiction and all the characters and adventures are imaginary. Any resemblance to actual persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

There hasn't been a member of Congress with a comprehensive understanding of the tax laws since Wilbur Mills, and I'm not a fan of Wilbur Mills.

—Stanford J. Schlesinger

Albert Einstein allegedly said that the hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.

Inflation is taxation without representation.

—Milton Friedman

Next to being shot at and missed, nothing is quite as satisfying as an income tax refund.

—F. J. Raymond

If you receive a tax refund you have loaned money to the federal government at an interest-free rate. Don't do it.

—D. Larry Crumbley

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FIFTH EDITION

D. Larry Crumbley
Donald L. Ariail
Debra A. Salbador

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Dedicated to Caleb, Daniel, Jacob, Ryan, Sloane, and Dane

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Preface

The Ultimate Rip-Off is an exciting supplementary text for public finance, taxation, accounting, or tax research classes in a suspense thriller format. This instructional novel is ideal for an MBA program or law school, which has a light coverage of taxation or accounting. It can be used in IRS training programs for beginning agents or in a CPA firm's in-house training program.

Featuring sleuths who handle net worth statements and financial records the way most detectives handle guns, the humorous characters put taxation and forensic accounting concepts into real life individual and business decisions. Along the way, public financial concepts and political controversies, contemporary individual and corporate tax planning, tax fraud and avoidance, and the life of IRS employees are elucidated in a way both students and instructors will find gripping as well as informative. Never dull! This educational novel is both didactic and entertaining. So jump on board and enjoy a good read.

Mix fraud, crime, politics, and taxation together to get a better way of learning the taxation process. If used as a supplement to a taxation course or a public finance course, this gripping novel provides a painless way of learning many taxation principles. This suspenseful novel puts taxation and forensic concepts into words a novice can understand and enjoy. Jeff Burke, a Dirty Harry-type Special Agent in the IRS, goes beyond the law to find several rogues who are evading taxes.

I assumed my real name in a past edition. I adopted a pen name on earlier editions because a former department head told me not to write my first novel, because the novel would be an embarrassment to his university. Well, this is the fifth edition, and my first novel did not sink like the Titanic, being adopted at many univer-

sities and colleges. I have published twelve other educational novels, and I personally thank that department head for giving me the incentive to write more novels.

Comments and suggestions are welcomed. Thanks to the many students and faculty who have read and criticized the earlier editions. I appreciate many helpful comments and support from Sriharsha Atluri, Tony Billings, Nick Brignola, Tony Crumbley, Michael Davis, Brian Doherty, James Edwards, Ed Fenton, Dann Fisher, Tonya Flesher, Ron Flinn, Karyn Friske, Harold Goedde, Lenny Goodman, Jim Greenspan, Phil Harmelink, Jim Hasselback, Lester Heitger, Michael Licata, Howell Lynch, Joe Matoney, Ed Milan, Linda Nichols, Cherie O'Neil, Marilyn Phelan, Gene Seago, Stevenson Smith, Suresh Sonti, Carol Sullivan, and Len Weld. Of course, any errors are mine.

D. Larry Crumbley
Louisiana State University

Cast of Characters

Ted Abbott, a Harvard lawyer specializing in taxation, who represents Carl Strovee and Henry Silverman.

Nick Anderson, an elite Special Agent, who works for the Treasury Inspector General for the Tax Administration Division.

Tony Blake, a Revenue Agent in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Hank Brown, a Special Agent of the Criminal Investigation Division, who works closely with Jeff Burke.

Jeff Burke, a Special Agent of the Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS.

Jimmy Callaway, the Commissioner of the IRS.

Harry Cranford, Press Secretary of the President.

B.W. Flesher, the owner of Flesher Printing Company.

Rob Fowler, a suspected "runner" for the football-betting racket in Baltimore.

Rick Garrison, a police detective in Washington, D.C.

Ben Gibson, Attorney General of the United States.

Professor Gregory, Psychology Professor at the University of Kentucky.

Richard Onner, a computer expert working in the IRS National Computer Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Jason Pabst, Nick Anderson's IRS supervisor.

Jack Rosenbaum, President of Rosenbaum, Inc., a rare coin business.

Charles Z. Samson, driver of the Sibbett Plumbing Outlet van.

Tish Scarbourg, the significant other of Richard Onner.

Henry Silverman, accountant who helped Carl Strovee cheat on his taxes.

Carl Strovee, a fraudulent psychic.
Debra Sweeney, a minister's wife in Pikeville, Kentucky.
Yvonne Talbert, a Revenue Agent.
Sam Westley, Jeff's supervisor.