



ED SLOTT'S IRA ADVISOR

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TAX & ESTATE PLANNING FOR YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Will The U.S. Supreme Court Protect Your IRA? (See page 7)

"I did not know what he [Fastow] was doing. He did not share with me what he was doing."
—Kenneth Lay,
former Enron Chairman

The "It Wasn't Me" defense above is what *The Wall Street Journal* called this and other excuses of scandal-ridden CEOs. IRA owners also come up with excuses when things go wrong. This month we highlight recent IRA Tax Court rulings where IRA owners took their case and their excuses to the judge in the hope of catching a break after running afoul of the IRA rules. They all lost.

These mistakes are costly and could all have been avoided by paying attention to the IRA tax rules. You'll see the price these people paid (not to mention the cost of going to court) in this month's feature "*The Dog Ate It ... and Other IRA Excuses That Won't Work.*" Learn from their IRA mishaps so this doesn't happen to you.

IRA Update

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon decide whether IRAs will receive federal creditor protection under ERISA. Right now, state laws govern IRA protection.

The IRS has amended the separate account rules for inherited IRAs. If the beneficiaries split the inherited IRA in the year after the IRA owner's death, the split is now effective for that year. Under the prior regulations, the split would not be effective until the year after the split.

For details on these stories, see "*IRA Update*" on page 7.

Guest IRA Expert

This month's guest IRA expert once again is Mr. 72(t), Gordon F. Weis. Gordon is a 72(t) maven and hosts the website <http://72t.net>. He tackles the most frequently asked 72(t) questions in "*Your 72(t) Questions Answered.*"

For more IRA information, visit our website at www.ira-help.com.

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Guest Expert

**Gordon F. Weis, CLU, ChFC
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Become an IRA Expert on November 5th & 6th in Orlando

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