



ED SLOTT'S IRA ADVISOR

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TAX & ESTATE PLANNING FOR YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

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"Under current tax law, 23 million taxpayers will owe the alternative minimum tax for 2007, up from 4 million last year."

— *The New York Times, November 8, 2007*

The dreaded Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) has grown into a monster that seems almost impossible to slay. The AMT is spiraling out of control. Now that so many more people are paying the AMT, the tax revenue being generated (expected to approach one trillion dollars!) is too much money for the government to walk away from. The problem with the AMT is that it has not kept up with inflation. It no longer snares only the super wealthy it was created for, but catches many ordinary working folks in its web.

AMT is being talked about everywhere. Something will probably be done, but it may only be a patch to get through another year. This means that if your clients got hit with AMT last year it is likely to happen again this year. Our feature article *"Year-End AMT Planning With IRAs"* could help some of your clients to either minimize the effects of the AMT or, if that cannot be done, take advantage of the AMT when it is unavoidable.



This month's Guest IRA Expert, once again, is IRA dynamo, Natalie Choate, JD, Bingham McCutchen LLP, Boston. Natalie's article *"Before Naming a Trust as IRA Beneficiary, Check Out These Key Points"* shows you what items to take into consideration before recommending a trust as the beneficiary of the IRA. In addition, if the client does name the trust as the IRA beneficiary, Natalie takes you through numerous issues that must be addressed in the estate and income tax planning phase to avoid costly tax mistakes after death.

Natalie's article provides a practical and useful guide to IRA trust planning.

Once again, as we do each year in December, you'll see our annual index of articles for 2007. This is a great issue to keep on hand when you want to find anything that we covered during the year.

We wish all of you and your families a healthy, successful and happy holiday season and New Year. IRA issues will always be here, but for now, enjoy this special time of the year with your family and friends.



For more IRA information, visit our website at www.irahelp.com.

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Guest IRA Expert

Natalie B. Choate, Esq. Bingham McCutchen LLP Before Naming a Trust as IRA Beneficiary, Check Out These Key Points

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Completely Updated for 2008!

Look for Ed Slott's Book
*"The Retirement Savings
Time Bomb ... and How
to Defuse It"*

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