



# On The Inside

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## IRS Launches the IRS2Go App for iPhone, Android

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The Internal Revenue Service recently unveiled IRS2Go, its first smartphone application that lets taxpayers check on their status of their tax refund and obtain helpful tax information.

The IRS2Go phone app gives people a convenient way of checking on their federal refund. It also gives people a quick way of obtaining easy-to-understand tax tips.

Apple users can download the free IRS2Go application by visiting the Apple App Store. Android users can visit the Android Marketplace to download the free IRS2Go app.

The phone app is a first step for the IRS. They will look for additional ways to expand and refine their use of smartphones and other new technologies to help meet the needs of taxpayers.

The mobile app, among a handful in the federal government, offers a number of safe and secure ways to help taxpayers. Features of the first release of the IRS2Go app include:

### Get Your Refund Status

Taxpayers can check the status of their federal refund through the new phone app with a few basic pieces of information. First, taxpayers enter a Social Security number, which is masked and encrypted for security purposes. Next, taxpayers pick the filing status they used on their tax return. Finally, taxpayers enter the amount of the refund they expect from their 2010 tax return.

For people who e-file, the refund function of the phone app will work within about 72 hours after taxpayers receive an e-mail acknowledgement saying the IRS received their tax return.

For people filing paper tax returns, longer processing times mean they will need to wait three to four weeks before they can check their refund status.

About 70 percent of the 142 million individual tax returns were filed electronically last year.

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## April Birthdays!

Carolyn Mann.....	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Alicia Benitez.....	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Jagannadhan Ravi.....	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Bill Pollard, Jr.....	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Spencer Weston.....	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Pamela Treadwell.....	4 <sup>th</sup>
Darlene Gross.....	5 <sup>th</sup>
Christopher Justice.....	6 <sup>th</sup>
Joseph Connelly.....	7 <sup>th</sup>
Tracey Dixon.....	8 <sup>th</sup>
William Brooks.....	9 <sup>th</sup>
Richard Wilson.....	11 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Tarasovich.....	14 <sup>th</sup>
David Fisher.....	15 <sup>th</sup>
Anita Tellis.....	15 <sup>th</sup>
Curtis Peritz.....	16 <sup>th</sup>
Connie Porter.....	20 <sup>th</sup>
Sherrie Hoskisson.....	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Peter Ballweiser.....	24 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Morris.....	25 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Yu.....	25 <sup>th</sup>
Cecil Buxo.....	26 <sup>th</sup>
David Leatherman.....	28 <sup>th</sup>
Tamera Giuliano.....	30 <sup>th</sup>
Richard Hawk.....	30 <sup>th</sup>

Hardy har har: Isn't it appropriate that the month when taxes are due begins with April Fool's Day and ends with cries of "May Day! May day!"

# Tax News Headlines

Latest News – To Read Articles, please visit  
[www.irs.gov/newsroom/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/index.html)

[IRS Seeks Volunteers for Taxpayer Advocacy Panel](#)

[IRS Issues Information on 2011 Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Initiative in Eight Foreign Languages](#)

[More Taxpayers Are Filing From Home in 2011, Free File Options Abound](#)

[IRS Announces New Effort to Help Struggling Taxpayers Get a Fresh Start; Major Changes Made to Lien Process](#)

Global News - For more information and to read full articles visit  
[www.tax-news.com](http://www.tax-news.com)

Osborne Unveils Pro-Business UK Budget  
by Robert Lee, Tax-News.com, London  
Thursday, March 24, 2011

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has delivered a Budget of surprises and reforms, designed to accelerate the process of reforming the UK economy, and achieve a new model of sustainable and balanced growth, with a renewed emphasis on enterprise.

Barbados Sounds the Alarm on OECD Listing  
by Phillip Morton, Investors Offshore.com  
Thursday, March 24, 2011

In a rare assault on the Organization for Economic and Cooperation Development – the body responsible for enforcing tax transparency standards – Barbados has insisted it won't 'roll over and play dead' as the Organization attempts to blacklist the territory as 'uncooperative.'

## Feedback

*Washington Institute for Graduate Studies is dedicated to creating and constantly improving the educational experience of busy tax professionals*

We welcome your suggestions!

As Washington Institute continues working hard to exceed the expectations of our students, we value your constructive feedback, and suggestions for expansion and we appreciate it when students share their experiences.

Please feel free to contact the school any time with suggestions for improvement, ideas for new courses to pursue, and anything that is of interest and importance to you.

*Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair.*  
– George Washington

Forward your thoughts to: [info@wsltax.org](mailto:info@wsltax.org) or call 858-546-2838  
Or log on to our website Forum at: [www.wsltax.org/forum](http://www.wsltax.org/forum)

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## Get Tax Updates

Phone app users enter their e-mail address to automatically get daily tax tips. Tax Tips are simple, straightforward tips and reminders to help with tax planning and preparation. Tax Tips are issued daily during the tax filing season and periodically during the rest of the year. The plain English updates cover topics such as free tax help, child tax credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit, education credits and other topics.

## Follow the IRS

Taxpayers can sign up to follow the IRS Twitter news feed, @IRSnews. IRSnews provides the latest federal tax news and information for taxpayers. The IRSnews tweets provide easy-to-use information, including tax law changes and important IRS programs.

IRS2Go is the latest IRS effort to provide information to taxpayers beyond traditional channels. The IRS also uses tools such as YouTube and Twitter to share the latest information on tax changes, initiatives, products and services through social media channels. For more information on IRS2Go and other new media products, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or please call Blaylock & Co. office 801-375-7515.

## Washington Institute Teams Up with Fast Forward Academy!

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take advantage of great savings!

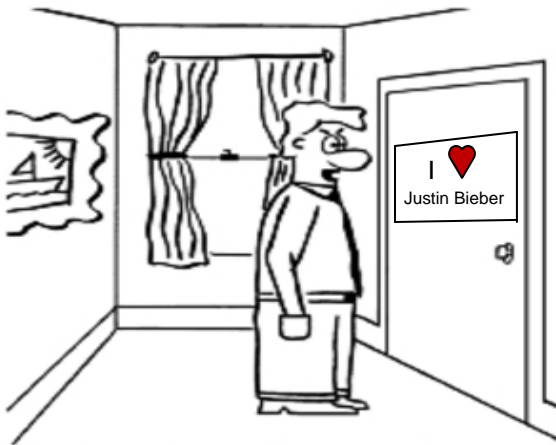
## Over Taxed...

When the Only Thing Left to do is Laugh

### Weird Tax Laws.... We're Talkin' REALLY Weird

- Under the UK's Tax Avoidance Schemes Regulations 2006, it is "illegal not to tell the taxman anything you don't want him to know, though you don't have to tell him anything you don't mind him knowing"... Um... Huh?
- In the U.S., "Jock Tax" is the colloquialism for the income tax levied against visitors to a city or state who earn money in that jurisdiction. Since a state cannot afford to track the many individuals who do business on a daily basis, those targeted are typically very wealthy, high-profile people such as professional athletes. (Perhaps because the work schedules and salaries of athletes are public knowledge so it's easy for states to calculate the tax with little time or effort.) Rumor has it this tax was first levied by the State of California on athletes from Chicago in 1991 when the Bulls beat the LA Lakers in the NBA Finals. Sore losers? In 2003 the Tax Foundation conducted a study on the Jock Tax and found it to be poorly targeted, arbitrarily enforced, and unrealistically burdensome. They argue that this tax is poor tax policy. Are they headquartered in Chicago? (Nope... Washington D.C.)

**You think Junior High is hard, try reading tax regulations all day... That's hard!**



### Tax Facts

- The Gettysburg address is 269 words, the Declaration of Independence is 1,337 words, and the Bible is only 773,000 words. However, the tax law has grown from 11,400 words in 1913 to over 7 million words today.
- Nearly 300,000 trees are cut down yearly to produce the paper for all the IRS forms and instructions.

## Spotlight...

*Washington Institute for Graduate Studies' spotlights some of our amazing students, staff members or faculty. It's a great way to get to know the people who make this institution the success that it is*

### Kathryn Hanson, VP, Administration Washington Institute for Graduate Studies

You may know Kathryn Hanson as the Vice President of Administration at Washington Institute for Graduate Studies. If you're very astute, you may even know that she's been a fantastic asset to the school since September 2009.

But it's what you probably don't know that makes her truly exceptional! In addition to VP, Kathryn is the Secretary *and* Treasurer on the school's governing board of directors. Not one to back down from any challenge, Kathryn, known to her friends and co-workers as Kathy, or Kat, is a powerhouse. With a finely tuned ability to problem-solve, and demonstrated skill at decisive leadership, one gets the feeling that there isn't much she can't do. With the envious talent of having a creative AND analytical eye, she oversees critical aspects of the administration of Washington Institute for Graduate Studies, including human resources, faculty relations, student relations, course production, and a myriad of other duties. While doing all of that, she maintains a wonderful sense of humor that is infectious! One can't help but feel happier after spending a few minutes with Kathy



In her occasional moments of down-time, away from the school, Kathy enjoys spending time with family and friends. She particularly enjoys "camping and playin' in the water". Washington Institute for Graduate Studies is pleased, and lucky to have her!



### Washington Institute for Graduate Studies Mission Statement

Designed for attorneys, certified public accountants and financial advisors working in the field of taxation, and Enrolled Agents before the IRS, our mission is to provide a quality distance learning experience that is relevant, convenient and affordable.