

tax Insights

Top 5 Things Your Tax Advisor Should Have Done ... to Lower Your Tax Bill

At the end of 2013, there were numerous tax planning opportunities available to businesses based on the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 that were set to expire, including a wide variety of incentives for businesses to expand, purchase assets and hire employees.

Did your tax advisors work with your business to plan ahead and take advantage of these significant tax savings—or did they simply show up, complete corporate Form 1120 and hand you a higher-than-expected tax bill?

Answer the following questions about your current tax advisor:

QUESTION	YES	NO	N/A
Did my tax advisor examine the structure of my business to determine if it was best positioned to meet my current objectives and any business-transition goals (e.g., could I have benefitted from setting up an LLC, should my company have elected to be taxed as an S-Corporation or incorporated my sole proprietorship)?			
Did my tax advisor examine my buy-sell agreement to ensure that it addresses current ownership and/or anticipated ownership changes?			
Did my tax advisor take into consideration my plans for business expansion into other locations , either during last year or in the future (e.g., which states or local counties offered the lowest tax risk)?			
Did my tax advisor review your employee benefit plans to assess if they should be updated (e.g., did you review eligibility for the Work Opportunity Credit or begin planning for Affordable Care Act requirements)?			
Did my tax advisor ensure all of my documentation was up-to-date and ready for filing, including confirming our business minutes were current (reflecting tax-related items such as salary levels and bonuses), and ensuring loans were carefully documented (reflecting correct terms, adequate interest, etc.)?			

If you can't answer "yes" to each of the applicable questions above, your tax advisor may have underperformed in 2013. Consider working with a strategic tax advisor—one that understands your business, reduces your tax risk and doesn't leave you with a higher-than-expected tax bill.

Strategic Insights, Practical Action

Armanino provides an integrated set of accounting services—audit, tax, consulting and technology solutions—to a wide range of organizations operating both in the US and globally. You can count on Armanino to think strategically,

to provide the sound insights that lead to positive action. We address not just your compliance issues, but your underlying business challenges, as well—assessing opportunities, weighing risks and exploring the practical implications of both your short- and long-term decisions.