

HOW TO FIND A TAX PREPARER

When looking for a tax preparer the big question is WHO?

Navigating the complexities of tax preparation can leave you feeling lost, especially for law firms aiming for sustained profitability and cash flow. How does it all work together and what is this tax strategy thing? We're here to help you understand just that!

Understanding the difference between having your taxes prepared, and having a tax strategy can save you tons in tax dollars.

So below are some considerations to think through when going through this decision. We have also provided a thorough checklist to reference during your next consultation.

UNDERSTANDING TAX PREPARATION VS. TAX STRATEGY:

Tax Preparation: At its core, tax preparation involves the isolation of a single tax year to file your returns based on your current financial situation.

It focuses primarily on compliance—ensuring you meet your legal obligations and minimize your tax liability for that specific year. It does not observe and explore how you can deduct more through your business in a way that benefits you personally and at home.

However, this approach can often lead to missed opportunities for long-term savings.

Tax Strategy: In contrast, tax strategy encompasses a broader view of your financial future. A tax strategist looks at your goals over the next two to three years and considers various factors that may affect your taxes. This could include potential changes in family status, if you're looking to purchase a home, or if you plan to get a bank loan.

A good tax strategy anticipates your financial trajectory rather than simply assuming based on your past.



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Company Name:	
Company Location:	

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS:

How long have you been doing this?
Do you have high turnover with your team?
How do you ensure accuracy? What are your internal systems to protect my information?
How many times per year do we meet and what is our objective during those meetings?
How do you manage estimated tax payments for me? Do you provide actual calculations for estimated payments, not just vouchers?
Have you worked with law firms before? Do you have experience or clients in my industry?
How familiar are you with grey area tax strategies and how comfortable are you advising me on implementing them ethically?
Are you willing to do a review of my last year's tax return, and my YTD financials and provide any insight and observations?
What is your fee structure? Flat fee or hourly?
How familiar are you with different entity types (LLC, S Corp)? Can you advise on potential transitions or changes in my business structure?
Can you work seamlessly with my financial advisors and business attorney?
Can you align my tax strategy with my broader financial goals?



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Choosing the right tax preparer can make a significant difference in your financial health. Remember, a good tax preparer doesn't just help you file your taxes—they help you strategize for the future.

Some additional resource (click anywhere in the box for the link):

STEAL OUR QUARTERLY ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENT STRATEGY:
Your tax strategy should include a plan for estimated tax payments.
This ensures you're not caught off guard come tax season.
Collaborate with your tax preparer to establish estimated tax calculations during Q2 and Q4, allowing for proactive adjustments throughout the year.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO WORKING WITH A TAX PREPARER:
STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS BLOG:
Now that you have a guide to finding a tax preparer, check out our blog on how to work with them to optimize your tax strategy.

OUR FREE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:
Not sure where your finances stand? Let us take a look with our free analysis!