1	HEARING
2	OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS
3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
4	
5	In the Matter of the Appeal of:
6	HARRY TAUB, OTA Case No. 18011278
7	Appellant.
8	/
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
16	
17	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018
18	10:00 A.M.
19	
20	OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS 400 R STREET
21	SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
22	
23	
24	
25	Reported by AMY E. PERRY, CSR No. 11880

1	<u>APPEARANCES</u>
2	
3	BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
4	JEFF ANGEJA, ALJ OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS 400 R Street
5	
6	Sacramento, California 95811
7	PANEL MEMBERS
8	MICHAEL GEARY, ALJ
9	OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS
10	LINDA CHENG, ALJ OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS
11	
12	<u>APPELLANT</u>
13	HARRY TAUB, Taxpayer 387 14th Avenue
14	San Francisco, California 94118
15	FOR THE RESPONDENT
16	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
17	FRANCHISE TAX BOARD LEGAL DIVISION
18	BY: BRAD COUTINHO, TAX COUNSEL & MARGUERITE MOSNIER, TAX COUNSEL
19	P.O. Box 1720 Rancho Cordova, California 95741-1720 916.845.7689
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1	INDEX
2	<u>ARGUMENTS</u> <u>PAGE</u>
3	By the witness 9
4	By Franchise Tax Board 26
5	Rebuttal by the witness 39
6	
7	EXHIBITS
8	RESPONDENT'S EXHIBITS PAGE
9	Exhibits A through T admitted into evidence 8
10	
11	APPELLANT'S EXHIBITS
12	Exhibits 1 through 3 admitted into evidence 8
13	
14	
15	(Exhibits premarked, described and retained by Administrative
16	Law Judge.)
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018 - 10:10 A.M. 2 3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: We are now 4 on the record in the Office of Tax Appeals, Oral 5 Hearing for the Appeal of Harry Taub, Case No. 6 18011278. We are in Sacramento, California, and the 7 date is Tuesday, November 27, 2018. The time is 8 approximately 10:10. 9 My name is Jeff Angeja, and I'll be the lead 10 Administrative Law Judge for this morning. 11 co-panelists today are Linda Cheng and Michael Geary. 12 Franchise Tax Board, could you please 13 identify yourselves for the record. 14 MR. COUTINHO: Yes. Brad Coutinho for the Franchise Tax Board. 15 16 MS. MOSNIER: And Marquerite Mosnier. 17 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Sorry for 18 the mispronunciation. And Mr. Taub. 19 THE APPELLANT: Harry Taub for Appellant. 20 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: All right. 21 And as the parties agreed at the pre-hearing 22 conference that we had, this appeal involves four 2.3 issues, which are as follows: 24 First, whether Appellant has showed he is

entitled to innocent spouse relief under Section --

25

Revenue Taxation Code Section 18533(f); two, whether Appellant has shown he is entitled to court-ordered relief under Section 19006, subdivision (b); third, whether Appellant has shown that he's entitled to relief under Section 19006, subdivision (c); and four, whether the Office of Tax Appeals has jurisdiction to address the statute of limitations for the collection under Section 19255, and if so, whether the statute of limitations for collection regarding the 1992 tax year has expired.

2.3

MR. COUTINHO: Judge Angeja?

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Sure.

MR. COUTINHO: Can I take a brief and clarify in regards to the incident spouse, for first three issues in regards to innocent spouse relief for 18533(f), court-ordered relief under 19006(b), and relief under 19006(c), we'd just like to clarify that both the 1992 and 1993 tax years are at issue in regards to those issues regarding innocent spouse relief.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Okay. The concession regarding 1993, the statute of limitations have been expired?

MR. COUTINHO: Correct. We are conceding that for the collection statute of limitations, that

we will no longer pursue collection activity for those years. However, Appellant would still be entitled to innocent spouse relief for the 1992 and '93 tax years. So I wanted to clarify if he'd still be eligible.

2.3

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: I understand the merits are the same for both years, but I thought 1993 was not in play. In other words, even he were to prevail 1993, there's no consequence.

MS. MOSNIER: There could potentially be credit issues with respect to 1993 if your office determined that he were entitled to innocent spouse relief for the 1993 tax year.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: All right.

MS. MOSNIER: So that's why we need '93 from our perspective to be an issue as well [sic].

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Mr. Taub, do you understand what they are --

THE APPELLANT: I understand what they are saying. However, it was my understanding that all issues with regard to the 1993 alleged liability had been abandoned entirely, and any positions with regard to the Franchise Tax Board vis-à-vis either collection period or innocent spouse permission, if you will, on my behalf were abandoned and granted, if you will, by the Franchise Tax Board. It was not my understanding

that that issue was extant, whatsoever.

2.3

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: So it wouldn't be granted if they were saying it was no longer at issue. We're going -- the merits for both years are identical on the facts, as I understand it. So addressing the one, we implicitly address the both.

If we were to not address 1993 at all, it would be an open question as to whether there was a possibility to file a claim for refund if you were to prevail. So we've got to address it. We clearly have a disputed issue. Facts are identical, so we could go forward with it.

The statute of limitations for 1993, FTB has conceded that that's expired. And just for clarity, I realize OTA, Office of Tax Appeals, we raised the jurisdictional issue for the first time. The parties gave you guys the option to brief it. Both have.

We haven't read Mr. Taub's brief yet because we didn't get it until actually this morning physically. And I didn't know that it wasn't ex parte. It's not? I'm going to allow everybody to argue both the jurisdictional issue, and then because we haven't reached a decision on that yet, we will have you address the merits of that issue as well.

All right. Few more preliminary housekeeping

1 matters. Parties have previously exchanged exhibits 2 and voiced no objection during our pre-hearing conference. So without objection, the following 3 4 documents are admitted into evidence: 5 For Franchise Tax Board, Exhibits A through T 6 that were provided with Franchise Tax Board's 7 pre-hearing conference statement. 8 (Respondent's Exhibits A-T 9 admitted into evidence.) 10 For Appellant, Exhibits 1 through 3 that were 11 attached to his opening brief. Also provided copies 12 to everybody today. 13 (Appellant's Exhibits 1-3 14 admitted into evidence.) 15 It's my understanding the Franchise Tax Board 16 is not calling witnesses today. And Appellant has one 17 witness, Mr. Taub; that's still correct? 18 THE APPELLANT: Yes. 19 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: And as I 20 said during our pre-hearing conference, we've got two 21 basic parts to a hearing: The evidence and the 22 arguments. We've got the evidence in the record, so 2.3 now we turn to the arguments. 24 And we'll begin with Mr. Taub's testimony and 25 argument, which is we agree that the pre-hearing

1 conference statement shouldn't exceed 30 minutes. 2 Franchise Tax Board will be allowed to ask questions 3 if they wish, as will the panel of judges. 4 Franchise Tax Board will then make his 5 presentation. You had said not to exceed 15 minutes. And then Mr. Taub, you can ask questions, as well as 6 7 the panel. Mr. Taub, we will allow you approximately 8 five minutes to respond to Franchise Tax Board's 9 arguments, if you wish. 10 And last, for the benefit of the parties in 11 the audience, I would explain that we will be swearing 12 in Mr. Taub because he's a witness. His testimony 13 will be evidence. We don't swear in Franchise Tax 14 Board's attorneys because they are not witnesses. 15 Their arguments are evidence in this matter, just 16 arguments. 17 So with that, I'd like to swear you in, 18 Mr. Taub. Please raise your right hand. 19 Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth? 20 THE WITNESS: I do. 21 (Witness sworn in.) 22 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: And when 2.3 you're ready, please begin.

to address the jurisdictional issue first.

THE WITNESS: If I may, please, I would like

24

25

statute of limitations issue has been present in this case from the inception. However, I had forgotten that the State Board of Equalization sends along a pamphlet calling Franchise and Personal Income Tax Appeals, Publication 81, dated December 2010. At page 5, processing the appeal, there are specific references with regard to the determination of jurisdiction.

At the center of that page, it indicates, quote, If the BOE does not have jurisdiction over your appeal, comma, we will reject your appeal. Period. We will send you a letter explaining the reasons for the rejection. Period. Closed quote.

There was never a rejection of anything.

There was nothing indicating that there was a rejection, nor that there was no jurisdiction. The next paragraph below the one just quoted is italicized, which says, quote, Note on disputed jurisdiction: Colon. If there is a genuine dispute about whether BOE has jurisdiction over your appeal, comma, we will accept the appeal on the condition that jurisdiction remains at issue. Period. The BOE will decide whether it has jurisdiction when it decides the other issues on your appeal. Period. Closed quote.

There were no conditions ever set on this

appeal, whatsoever by the BOE, nor anyone else at all. There was never disputation. There was never a condition. There was no notice. There was no due process with regard to an issue on jurisdiction or notice that the BOE had any issues with regard to jurisdiction, whatsoever.

2.3

In addition, not only do I pose initially the issue of the statute of limitations, but in the opening brief of the respondents. The respondents directly respond to the jurisdictional and 20-year statute of limitations issue in its opening brief filed in April of 2016.

Therefore, it appears that everyone did not believe there were any conditions, whatsoever with regard to the jurisdiction. As I mentioned, the first issue that is posed by the respondents in the matter is, has the statute of limitations for collections under Revenue Taxation Code Section 19255 run on the 1992 or 1993 tax years making the remaining liabilities non-collectable. That's from the Franchise Tax Board, not from me.

As mentioned, there was no condition ever.

Jurisdiction was never an issue. Under the rules of the BOE, there was never a condition with regard to this appeal at all, nor a reservation of jurisdiction

on this appeal at all.

2.3

Therefore, while I appreciate that this issue has been raised at this 11th hour by this board, it appears that by virtue of the time, the concessions on the appeal, and this was a perfected appeal without any form of conditions, whatsoever, that the statute of limitations issue is present, and that this board has jurisdiction to determine the matters with regard to the statute of limitations and its applicability.

With regard the statute of limitations, this is a classic case of why the statute of limitations applies. The matters before this panel are more than two decades old. Documents with regard to this matter are nonexistent. I had made regular and repeated requests to the Franchise Tax Board for copies of the filed tax returns which were the subject matter of the disputations and the collections actions. I was told that no such returns existed, as those returns would have been destroyed some years ago by the Franchise Tax Board. And therefore, I have no foundational documentation by which to even mount an appeal because I have no firsthand genesis documentation as to the subject matter of the appeal.

I do have a number of computer printouts no doubt from the Franchise Tax Board, but I have no tax

returns. I don't know what the income was on the tax returns, nor who signed what and when from the tax returns.

2.3

Additionally, as two decades-plus have passed, recollections and memories are gone. Persons who might have been able to testify would long ago not remember facts of two-plus decades ago.

In addition, documents which could have been provided were destroyed by court systems in their archival systems decades ago. I have provided, and we will review in a few moments, the register of actions and materials available from Los Angeles County. The register of actions is in handwriting as this panel will see going back to 1992 on what I call my divorce No. 1, which started in 1998.

However, almost all of the documents no longer exist in Los Angeles County. I was fortunate to be able to pull some of them as were available at the archives division in Los Angeles. I personally went there, I personally pulled the register, and I personally asked for copies of anything that would have been available at that time.

Therefore, this is, again, a classic case of why statute of limitations are important. You have a rather substantial brief, which I am confident all of

you will review with regard to the briefing of this 20-year statute of limitations argument, along with the pre-hearing statement which was filed with regard to the applicability of the statute.

Suffice it to say that not only because of the memories, but the taxpayers are, it seems to me, permitted some end time for a process to be present, that the statute of limitations in this case should also apply. I have provided to you the case authority at the federal level to which this board and this panel would take deference with regard to the need to put an end to tax matters.

This has been going on for more than two decades, and it does need to be brought to an end. On again, the statute of limitations issue and the 20 years, I have argued with regard to the substantive issue as to that which is a tax versus that which is a fee. This is a fee that somehow tolled the statute of limitations.

The payment of a fee to record a document is not a tax. It's a fee. It is not revenue-raising.

It does not create revenue for the general public. It pays a bill to either a process server, attorney service or county recorder to file and record a document. And that's precisely what it is.

Now, if one wanted to say there was a 20-year statute of limitations on a tax, I would understand that. But there is no 20-year statute of limitations on the payment of a fee, which this is in this case.

And that was, as I understood, the reason for the Franchise Tax Board's position that this fee somehow tolled and could forever tole this statute because the Franchise Tax Board could, it would seem to me, decide to pay this fee on an annual basis to rerecord a document.

2.3

That was never the intent of the statute.

The statute was geared to revenue-raising money. It was not with regard to fees. Those are the issues with regard to, it seems to me, at this time: The jurisdictional matter and statute of limitations matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Mr. Taub, would you like some water?

THE WITNESS: No. I have a, unfortunately a regular cough from what is a cold.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: All right.

THE WITNESS: As I have argued in addition, I beg your pardon, this is not a stand-alone case. And this is not a case which is similar to that which was suggested as applicable in the, I believe, Couchman

case [sic]. This panel suggested that the statute of limitations issue had been heard and determined had the Couchman case. I have provided a copy of the case for this panel, although I'm certain it is available to you all.

The Couchman case has nothing to do with statute of limitations. It never did. The reference to jurisdiction, as this panel will see, is in Footnote No. 6. It is, at best, dictum, and, at worst, just a passing reference as to what procedure that panel meant. And it related to some dealings.

It may have been that the taxpayers in that case were not pleased with the way in which they were treated by the Franchise Tax Board. But it is not a statute of limitations issue, whatsoever. It is not the due process issue of a statute of limitations.

That is not what this case discusses.

Now, if the Franchise Tax Board can correct me and show me where in that case the statute of limitations was appropriate, referenced, and of merit, I will say I was incorrect in my citation, but I don't think I am.

Also, this board had suggested the review of the Block case [sic]. The Block case was an amendment to a petition, and whether or not the court would

permit an amendment to a petition. However, my appeal was not an amended anything. It was a moving ambulatory document to which the Franchise Tax Board then did plea. It was a stand-alone document in that it raised a variety of issues, not only as innocent in spouse issues.

2.3

In the Block case, there was the issue, it appeared, of innocent spouse. The issue of statute of limitations had not been raised. And yet, the court suggests that maybe you want to do this at another time, but you're not going to be doing this through an amendment process.

If one wanted to argue procedure, then that court said, procedurally, you should have raised this issue at the inception of this proceeding and not now in trying to do a Rule 41 amendment, which is what the taxpayer in that proceeding tried to do and lost.

I didn't do that. I raised all of the issues at the inception and the Franchise Tax Board pled to all of those issues from the inception. And therefore, that case appears to be inapplicable. I leave it to this panel to go through the rest of the briefing, as it would seem to me. Not spending the time arguing it before the panel has read the briefing is not in the best interest of all.

Now, rather than touch on particular subsections, I wanted to give an overview of the innocent spouse items as raised in the various protocols, procedures and benchmarks. I want to start with one of the last ones, and that was the Franchise Tax Board says, we're not so sure you can ask for any of this because you owe taxes to the Franchise Tax Board.

2.3

I owe nothing to the Franchise Tax Board.

The Franchise Tax Board indeed garnished wages of mine sometime ago, and I paid off the Franchise Tax Board entirely. As far as I am aware, because I don't have any bills from the Franchise Tax Board at this time, I owe nothing for any past years of any income taxes to the State of California other than that which is disputed at today's hearing.

Again, if there is a bill that the Franchise Tax Board has that says that I owe any money for those years which have been heretofore either liened, levied, garnished or paid off 100 percent, then I will be certainly willing to see those, but I don't have them.

The Franchise Tax Board raises issues with regard to whether or not the taxpayer knew of these liabilities or not. As I had mentioned in my appeal

and in replies, my relationship with wife No. 2, that is Carrie Beth, from probably 1991 forward was at best acrimonious. And Carrie got mail. She would have gotten notices, levies, documentation, et cetera.

2.3

I was somehow consumed from 1990 -- well,
1991, 1992 forward in the following matters in which
not only my energies went, but whatever money I had
went.

If I may, you will take a look under, I believe it's Exhibit 2, the long sheets, very long sheets. And that is the register of actions. This is the register of actions in Southern California. This was divorce No. 1. These were post-judgment actions which were taken against me with joinder motions brought against some trusts that I had established, a joinder motion against Carrie Beth, a joinder motion against Baby Thoughts, her corporation, et cetera.

The joinder motions 1994 through 1995 were denied. I can specifically recall the joinder motion at which my first wife's counsel argued that those were all mine and all the money in them was controlled by me.

Judge Cardinas in Southern California, Los
Angeles denied those motions entirely and said those
all belonged to Carrie. She owned Baby Thoughts. She

controlled all of that money. The money that I had was used in fighting on my behalf the various and sundry matters, as you will see, in this register going from 1988 through when you see 1992 starting on page 1 through 1995.

Those were cases in which my counsel was

Howard Blumenthal, who ultimately committed suicide,

and then the firm of Trope and Trope, T-R-O-P-E, and

Trope, in which I used money I had to mount the

defenses I had to indicate I didn't have any money. I

didn't have the money to do these things, and I didn't

control any of these entities, again, which ultimately

prevailed.

But the suggestion was from the Franchise Tax Board, well, where was the money that you saved in order to pay these taxes? Well, the answer was, I didn't have any money to pay these taxes. I was fighting this battle, but the money of Carrie's and Baby Thoughts was all in her accounts. And we'll get to that in a moment.

In addition, and as you may or may have done a historical review but I have made clear in my appeal, from 1991 through 1994, I was in a battle with the state bar. Gerald, G-E-R-A-L-D, Markle, M-A-R-K-L-E, was my bar counsel. He has since passed.

And Gerry and I were doing all I could to try to figure out how I could in some way preserve some kind of licensure. And so the money that I otherwise would have paid, if you will, to pay taxes went to pay Gerry to try to defend myself against what I consider to be a proper investigation by the state bar for my conduct.

And I used money to settle claims of clients with regard to those matters mounted against me from the state bar. I was ultimately at that stage suspended in 1994, but that was only after a great deal of work with Mr. Markle, hearings in front of the state bar in Southern California, and the payment of money to clients, who, in my opinion, deserved to be repaid by me for my acts.

Now, with regard to control of assets, because the Franchise Tax Board again says, well, you should have had a bunch of money to pay these taxes. Well, I didn't have the money to pay the taxes because they either went with regard to the matrimonial matter in divorce No. 1, or for the state bar matter at paying clients moneys to which they were entitled. And they would have been entitled, as you know, at all times.

However, at the end of behind the long

sheets, I have provided to you some transcripts and ultimately the order from Judge Cardinas releasing money. And that order was March 8, 1995. And this is after tumultuous and constant hearings and trials before Judge Cardinas.

2.3

Indeed, there was a four-day, full-day trial in front of Judge Cardinas with regard to the joinder motions. And ultimately, and my first wife brings actions to enjoin everyone, including Carrie and Baby Thoughts, Carrie's separate property because there was a prenuptial agreement by which this was her property, not mine, by which the court, commencing at page 2 of that order, permits Carrie to use her money to pay bills.

Indeed, the court permits Carrie to pay the Franchise Tax Board minimum franchise taxes, but Carrie, who, as far as I am aware had all of the notices from the Franchise Tax Board did not make application to Judge Cardinas to pay those bills. And that would have been the far on [sic] because I didn't have any money on it. She would have received all the notices indeed.

And yet, the court permits Carrie to pay money, to pay family expense \$8,000 a month. Carrie and Baby Thoughts shall have the power to disburse

funds for all ordinary and necessarily living expenses for herself, Petitioner, who was me, and Carrie's two minor children.

When the Franchise Tax Board suggests and says, where was the money, Mr. Taub, you were going to use to pay us? Mr. Taub was relying on money from his spouse's separate property for living expenses to get released by the court. And there is the evidence of that. This goes on for the payment of those items, but that is evidence of -- or the addressing of the issue of Mr. Taub, where was the money? Where were you going to pay the money? Well, the answer was I didn't have it. Carrie and Baby Thoughts had it.

When we speak about, you had the dominion and control over access of the assets, no, I did not.

Clearly, the court recognized that I did not. I never had dominion and control over any of those assets, whatsoever. Indeed, had I had dominion and control over any of those assets which should have been used to pay the Franchise Tax Board by Carrie and/or Baby Thoughts, Judge Cardinas would never have denied the joinder motions because Judge Cardinas would have said, Mr. Taub, you control those. You are the altar ego of those. You are in some way manipulating those.

Again, there were four court days of trial on

this issue. And yet, the court does not find I had any money to do that, whatsoever. Now, going beyond that period of time of what money I had, again, the Franchise Tax Board has suggested between 1991 and 1994, you must have been doing law work and creating lots of money.

2.3

No. I was doing lots of work to try to fight an incredibly acrimonious matrimonial matter post-judgment and to try to do what I could to keep my license alive. Was I doing lots and lots of work for clients which was generated generating billable time and money, no, there wasn't the time to do that. I was trying to survive it.

Thereafter, as a suspended lawyer, one's ability to generate money is dramatically reduced. And so the notion that, well, thereafter, although this is not even addressed by the Franchise Tax Board, you should have been able to generate the money.

Well, I couldn't have. There was no way I could have. And thus, when raising the issue, showed the economic hardship, again, one of the factors, I didn't have any money.

I was either trying to fight an acrimonious divorce case, trying to survive a state bar attack, trying to figure out what work I could do as a

suspended lawyer, and thereafter, talking about economic hardship, as you have seen, I was incarcerated. I didn't make any money. There was nothing.

2.3

And when I got out, again, to suggest economic hardship, well, you come out as someone who's been through that and you are thankful within ten days to find a minimum wage job, which I was. And that's from where I moved from that point forward. The economic hardship when you're making minimum wage, that's what you've got. That's what you're fighting.

And so the economic hardship was present for years and years and years. It wasn't just one year or two years, it went on for two decades, which is not seeming. Now, we talked about no control.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Let me quickly remind you we had allotted about 30 minutes, and you've got about five, six. If you need more time, we can try to allow it. I want to keep us moving and focused.

THE WITNESS: Thank you. I'm sorry. Just one second. I had on a regular, consistent basis requested records, because we talked about records, so I could figure out what this entire proceeding was about from Carrie, wife No. 2, who, again, in the

records, you will see another level of acrimony. In that divorce case, what went on for many years, it is printed on computerized sheets, your Honor, that you will see in those records from Santa Cruz County, again, another fight that went on.

I asked for records so I could figure out

2.3

what this appeal would be about and what its genesis was about. I asked Carrie in which I had no conversations in years. I had requested her lawyer, Patricia Liberty, to provide me records. I received nothing, ever. And so fighting this has been in the dark on a regular basis.

Now, I think at this point, let me just take a look as to other items. I think I'm going to conclude me for now.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: All right. Franchise Tax Board, do you have any questions at this point?

MR. COUTINHO: We do not.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Panelists?

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Nothing for me at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Franchise Tax Board, go ahead.

MR. COUTINHO: Good morning. I have four

points to make on appeal. The first is that Appellant is not entitled to equitable innocent spouse relief from the 1992 and 1993 tax years under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 18533(f).

Second, Appellant is not entitled court-ordered relief under Revenue Taxation Code Section 19006(b).

2.3

Third, Appellant is not entitled to relief from joint liability pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 19006(c).

And fourth, the Office of Tax Appeals does not have jurisdiction to determine whether the 20-years collection statute of limitations remains open.

To my first point, Appellant and his former spouse filed a joint California tax return reporting self-assessed tax liability for the years at issue. When a joint return is filed, each spouse is jointly and severally liable for the entire tax due.

Under Revenue and Taxation Code Section

18533, a requesting spouse may seek relief from joint
and several liability if he can establish that he's
entitled to innocent spouse relief. There are three
forms of innocent spouse relief. However, because the
joint liability in this case is self-assessed, the

only form of innocent spouse relief available able to Appellant is equitable innocent spouse relief under Section 18533(f).

2.3

Under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 18533(g)(2), the California legislature intended that any federal regulation regarding innocent spouse will apply to the extent they do not conflict with Respondent's regulations. The IRS' Revenue Procedure 2013-34 provides guidance to a taxpayer seeking equitable innocent spouse relief.

The IRS' revenue procedure sets forth seven threshold factors a taxpayer must satisfy to be eligible for equitable innocent spousal relief -- to be considered for innocent spouse relief.

The seventh threshold factor is that a taxpayer must establish that the tax liability is attributable either in full or in part to an item of the non-requesting spouse. Appellant has not met this burden.

Appellant asserts that the tax liability is attributable to his former spouse due to a business she allegedly owned. However, aside from the assertion, Appellant has not provided any documents showing that his former spouse owned a business during the years at issue, and more importantly, that the

business was the reason Appellant and his former spouse incurred tax liability.

2.3

Without any evidence to corroborate his position, Appellant has not shown that the tax liability is attributable, either in part or in full, to his former spouse. Accordingly, Appellant cannot be considered for equitable innocent spouse relief because he does not satisfy all of the threshold factors.

However, even if your office were to find that Appellant meets all of the threshold factors, the balance of the facts and circumstances of this case weigh against granting Appellant equitable innocent spouse relief.

IRS Revenue Procedure 2013-34 provides a non-inclusive list of factors to be considered when whether relief should be granted. Most of the factors at issue are neutral. However, two factors point in favor of denying innocent spouse relief: The knowledge factor and the compliance with tax laws factor.

In regards to the knowledge factor, Appellant has not shown that it was reasonable for him to believe that his former spouse would or could pay the couple's tax liability within a reasonable period of

time after the tax return was filed -- tax returns were filed.

2.3

In regards to Appellant's compliance with tax laws -- in regards to Appellant's compliance with tax laws, Respondent has taken filing important action against Appellant for at least four separate tax years, and Appellant has failed to timely pay all of his tax liabilities for at least six separate tax years.

Based on the information, Appellant has not established that he is in compliance with tax laws.

MS. MOSNIER: Just as a point of clarification on that issue. At the time FTB filed its opening brief, there were some unpaid liabilities for other tax years, but they have since been paid. FTB's records show that other than tax years at issue in this appeal, that Mr. Taub does not have a current outstanding liability to FTB.

And however, with respect to determining whether he was in compliance at the time FTB evaluated his innocent spouse request and denied it, FTB properly determined that he was not compliant with this specific numerated factor in Revenue Procedure 2013-34.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: That's new

to me. Which four years were they? Can you let us know?

2.3

MS. MOSNIER: Yes. 2007, '9, '11, '12, '13 and '14, he had not paid his tax liabilities in full by the speculative original payment date for those statutes.

MR. COUTINHO: Based on the two factors, the knowledge factor and compliance with tax laws factor, the equitable innocence spouse relief should be denied for years at issue.

To my second point, Appellant is not entitled to relief under Section 19006(b). Section 19006(b) provides that a court may revise the joint tax liability in a divorce proceedings.

However, Appellant has not submitted any court order from a state court with jurisdiction over his divorce revising the unpaid tax liability, and therefore, Appellant has not established that he's entitled to relief under Section 19006(b).

To my third point, Appellant is not entitled to relief under Section 19006(c). Under Section 19006(c), Respondent may revise a taxpayer's joint tax liability to the extent it is unpaid and is not a tax liability arising from income earned by or subject to the exclusive management and control of the spouse

requesting relief.

2.3

However, the liability may not be revised, only the -- the liability may only be revised if the requesting spouse establishes that he or she did not know of, and had no reason to know of, the nonpayment at the time of the return from which the liability arose was filed.

The knowledge factor under Section 19006(c) is also an element for equitable innocent spouse relief under Section 18533(f), and as discussed previously, Appellant has not shown that he did not know of or had no reason to know of the nonpayment at the time the return was filed.

Accordingly, Appellant is not entitled to innocent spouse relief from joint liability under Section 19006(c).

MS. MOSNIER: In fact, with respect to the knowledge factor, the Revenue Procedure 2013-34 specifies that the taxing authority is either to determine if the requesting spouse establishes that he or she did not know or have a reason to know that the liability would not be paid when the return was filed, that that factor would weigh in favor of relief, and if the requesting spouse knew or should have known that the liability would not be paid at the time the

returns were filed, that fact weighs against relief.

2.3

In this case, we have heard Mr. Taub describe it at length how or why -- how and why he believes he did not have the means to pay the liabilities at the time his '92 return was filed, I think in '93, and his '93 was filed in August of '95, which was several months after, I believe, the March 1995 date, he said that one of the -- that a judge in one of the divorce actions had made certain determinations about who and what.

But in any event, the evidence from Mr. Taub's testimony indicates he knew, or should have known, that the self-assessed liabilities would not be paid when the returns were filed. And FTB properly concluded that that factor weighed against relief.

MR. COUTINHO: To my fourth and final point,
Respondent submitted an additional brief on
November 14, 2018 to the OTA and Appellant.
Respondent's additional brief states that the OTA does
not have jurisdiction to determine whether the 20-year statute of limitations for collection has expired.

In response to Appellant's arguments today, the OTA has jurisdiction over this appeal due to Respondent's notice of action denial from joint tax liabilities, dated November 6, 2015 denying Appellant

innocent spouse relief.

2.3

In regards to the case cited in Respondent's additional brief, Block vs. Commissioner, it stands for the proposition that [inaudible] under an innocent spouse statute, and that's the reason OTA has jurisdiction today is because of innocent spouse statute.

It is limited to determining whether

Appellant is entitled to relief from existing and

joint -- existing joint and several liability, and it

does not extend for procedural dispute such as whether

an assessment is timely, whether an assessment is

correct, or whether the collection statute of

limitation is expired.

However, even if the board -- even if the OTA were to find that they have jurisdiction over the 20-year collections statutes of limitations, Respondent's position in the 20-year statute of limitations for the 1992 tax year remains open because it has been suspended several times throughout the time period.

It has been suspended under Section

19255(e)(1) for Appellant's bankruptcy, and has also
been suspended from the time when Appellant filed his
innocent spouse claim on October 21, 2014, and then

again when Appellant filed appeal to this letter. So it's been suspended from October 21, 2014 to until the OTA issues a final decision in this appeal.

I would be happy to address any questions that OTA has regarding the innocent spouse issue -- Sorry.

MS. MOSNIER: And with respect to jurisdiction, if your office were to determine, first, that it has jurisdiction over the collection statute of limitations under 19255; and secondly, that the county lien fee that was posted in 1999 was not a debit to the account that would begin a 20-year period of statute of limitations running, although we have not sent out the detail of briefs we had filed because we've not been asked for this level of detail before, we'll certainly put it in post-hearing briefing if that would be the request to the panel.

If we use the November 1994 debit postings to the Taub's account, there is a debit posting for the tax liability, which Mr. Taub conceded during his argument would absolutely trigger the 20-year statute of limitations for collection, and on the same day FTB posted it in the filing penalty, using either of those same dates or either of those events as a triggering event started 20-year statute of limitations for

collection running.

2.3

As Mr. Coutinho just described, there was a statutory total under 19255 for Mr. Taub's bankruptcy, and statute of limitations has been tolled continuously since October -- October 21, 2014 when Mr. Taub submitted his innocent spouse request. And it will continue to be tolled until the determination from on the innocent spouse request is final, so through any determination through any petition for hearing.

And by our calculations, that even if there were a final determination from which no appeal could be issued today, so that it was ultimately even a finalize of today to start the statute running again, there would still be approximately 16 months left on the 20-year statute that would have been based on the November 1994 debit postings for the 1992 tax liability and delinquent filing penalty.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: I don't have it in my notes because I'm slower with my hand than my ears are. Do you have a specific date, November 1994, what day?

MR. COUTINHO: Sorry.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: It may not be particularly -- but I get your point.

1	MR. COUTINHO: In regards to November 21,
2	1994.
3	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Okay. And
4	you said there were debits that included tax, not just
5	a fee, or was the filing I have filing penalty
6	written, but I couldn't get the detail. I'm sorry.
7	MR. COUTINHO: Give us one second.
8	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Sure.
9	MS. MOSNIER: FTB filed an additional brief
10	on December 27, 2016. And on page 2 pages 2 and 3
11	of that brief, we discussed specifically the debits
12	and the dates that were posted to the 1992 account.
13	November 21, 1994 was the date the tax liability and
14	the delinquent filing penalty were posted to the
15	Taub's account.
16	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Okay.
17	Perfect. Thank you. That concluded your
18	presentation?
19	MR. COUTINHO: Yes. That concluded.
20	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Do the
21	panelists have any questions?
22	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: No.
23	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Mr. Taub,
24	I'll turn it over to you to reply. I wanted to
25	interject one quick question because perhaps you can

1	address it in your reply as well.
2	Before I start that, did you have questions
3	for the Franchise Tax Board?
4	THE WITNESS: I do not. Thank you.
5	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: You had
6	mentioned a prenuptial agreement?
7	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
8	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: In
9	connection with, I believe it's
10	THE WITNESS: Carrie.
11	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Carrie. I
12	may have missed it in the file, but that's new to me.
13	Do we have that in your evidence?
14	THE WITNESS: No, because it would have been
15	in the court file which is gone. I didn't have it
16	because I was not at the home, whatsoever. And so
17	prenuptial agreement would have been in the possession
18	and control of Carrie, Ms. Liberty, with the court.
19	And since court files had been destroyed and
20	I had made requests for records from Carrie and
21	Ms. Liberty, I will tell you that Elizabeth Vogt,
22	V-O-G-T, was Carrie's independent counsel. And
23	Counsel is nodding indicating that Counsel knows this.
24	MR. COUTINHO: Oh, sorry.
25	THE WITNESS: So they're aware of this. And

that was the document by which Baby Thoughts, et cetera, was made and confirmed as her sole and separate property.

2.3

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Okay. So I didn't miss it. All right. So you've got the opportunity to provide any rebuttal to Franchise Tax Board.

THE WITNESS: Counsel discusses the fact that the matter is relative to any assessment or time was tolled by virtue of the bankruptcy has been conceded. The bankruptcy had no impact with regard to the Franchise Tax Board's taking any form of actions, whatsoever, was not within the time period, and therefore, there was no applicable stay with regard to any bankruptcy filings done back in 1994, I believe, Counsel may correct me, I'm not clear on the date. But again, there was no stay, and there was no suspension of any statute.

I had forgotten to mention that Carrie was served with the pleadings with regard to this matter and did not respond, whatsoever. And therefore, it appears that the notion of adoptive admissions is applicable; that is, that Carrie agrees with everything I have indicated in adoptive admissions.

She could have made a response. She could

have said something as a non-requesting spouse. She said nothing. But we do know that she received all of the pleadings in this matter, but failed to respond at all.

2.3

Counsel indicates that there was no evidence with regard to Baby Thoughts at all being Carrie's sole and separate property. If that was the case, Judge Cardinas would not have issued an order by which that property was deemed to be the sole and separate property of Carrie.

And therefore, Counsel is perhaps in error by not taking a look at that documentation, which Counsel has had in Counsel's possession for many, many, many months, that I would have expected that she would have omitted payments.

To the extent I would have known that payments were due to the Franchise Tax Board is confirmed by the tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars within the accounts of Baby Thoughts, and in the tens of thousands of dollars which were released by Judge Cardinas.

Even in his order, one suspects there may have been a great deal more. Again, I have no idea as to the nature and extent of all of the money in Baby Thoughts. I have requested the tax returns which may

have been appropriate to determine the income that was generated out of this entity, but none of them are available. Apparently, they may have been destroyed years ago, and there is no way I can then reconstruct to know what the income would have been and the income available, nor the principle available.

2.3

I end this by indicating that Carrie never filed in the family law matter in Santa Cruz any income and expense declarations or preliminary or final disclosure documents which would have set forth the assets within Baby Thoughts.

And therefore, when Counsel suggests that I knew or should have known of assets, there would be no way I would have known about those because none of those were disclosed as part of the matrimonial process. And therefore, I would have been totally cuckold with the notion that I could have discovered any of that information.

I believe, finally, with regard to the payment of the state income taxes, I went through a litany of employment, if you will, and ability to pay. The Franchise Tax Board was paid when I had the ability to pay, because other bills such as living expenses, paying rent and food, fortunately or unfortunately had to take precedence over paying the

1 Franchise Tax Board bill. 2 But when the money was available beyond the 3 ordinary and necessary needs of life, the Franchise 4 Tax Board was paid 100 percent. I believe I probably 5 used up my five minutes, your Honor. 6 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: All right. 7 If you've got anything? 8 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 9 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Yes. I do 10 have some questions. 11 Mr. Taub, when did you first become aware 12 that Franchise Tax Board was seeking from you payment 13 of the taxes for the years in question? 14 THE WITNESS: Your Honor, I have no 15 recollection, whatsoever. I do not know it was in the 16 1990s. I don't know if I may have received a notice 17 in an institution. I simply don't know. I have no recollection. 18 19 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Can the 20 Franchise Tax Board provide any information about when 21 Mr. Taub might first have been notified regarding an 22 amount that the board was seeking from him? 2.3 MR. COUTINHO: Yes. Exhibit G of 24 Respondent's opening brief, our collection documents

that we took. And our first collection document is --

25

1	one of the many is from December 18, 2000. Looks like
2	we sent a letter of account status July 25, 2001. And
3	that's Exhibit G of Respondent's opening brief.
4	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: So
5	December 2001, is that what you said?
6	MR. COUTINHO: Yes.
7	THE WITNESS: I beg your pardon, I'm sorry?
8	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Give me the
9	date, Mr. Coutinho.
10	MR. COUTINHO: The date of our notice of
11	state tax lien is October 18, 2000 is when it's dated.
12	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: 2001?
13	MR. COUTINHO: Sorry, 2000.
14	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: 2000.
15	THE WITNESS: And if I may inquire, to where
16	was that sent?
17	MR. COUTINHO: That was Exhibit G.
18	THE WITNESS: No. To where was it sent? I'm
19	sorry.
20	MS. MOSNIER: It's page 1 of Exhibit G to
21	FTB's opening brief. And it indicates an address on
22	Camino Elmar in La Salvo Beach, California. Exhibit G
23	is probably not a complete set of the FTB's collection
24	documents because it would be the standard practice
25	would have been that when the returns were processed

and there were liabilities owed, FTB's system would automatically start generating billing notices.

2.3

And since, as you know, actually at this point decades have passed since these returns were filed and processed. We would have voluminous copies. And I'm not sure simply because of our systems that would hold and print these documents, I'm not sure that we would be able today to go back and tell you with certainty which were the first collection documents we issued for these tax years.

But we processed the '92 return in '93, the '93 return in late '95. And just as a matter of course, we would at that time have started sending billing notices that begin with, hey, you owe us, you know, we impose penalties and tax interest, so here you go. Please get us paid now.

THE WITNESS: If I may, if it was in 2000, your Honor, and it was to La Salvo Beach, California, Carrie may have been living there. I was in a state institution.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Prison?

THE WITNESS: Yes. And so I didn't get it.

Carrie would have received it because she was not in an institution.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: What are

the -- for what period of time, during what years were you incarcerated?

THE WITNESS: Approximately 1999 through 2002. So if a notice was sent to the two of us, it

would have been sent to Carrie. During the entire period of time, I received no correspondence or any

7 other documentation from Carrie or her counsel ever.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: But you have no recollection of when you first received notice from FTB?

THE WITNESS: Well, I was responding to the Franchise Tax Board when you queried as to when they sent something. I said I did not know. With respect to a specific date, I know exactly where I was as of that date, and I do know that Carrie was living in the Santa Cruz County area. That she never sent me anything would therefore indicate I was never charged with knowledge of anything. I never got anything.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Back to your imprisonment, your incarceration, what charge were you convicted?

THE WITNESS: Grand theft.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: From

clients?

5

6

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

THE WITNESS: Yes.

1	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Felonies?
2	
	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
3	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: How many, if
4	you know?
5	THE WITNESS: I believe there were two.
6	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: I think you
7	filed your request for relief in 2014; is that right?
8	THE WITNESS: If that's what the records are,
9	I have no reason to dispute the Franchise Tax Board.
10	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Do you
11	recall how long before then you had last received a
12	collection notice, of any type of notice from FTB?
13	THE WITNESS: I do not. I have no
14	independent recollection, whatsoever.
15	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Did you earn
16	income in 1992?
17	THE WITNESS: Now going back 26 years, I
18	simply don't recall. I may have earned income and
19	paid everything earned to lawyers with regard to
20	ongoing matrimonial and bar matters, in addition to
21	repaying clients.
22	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: You said you
23	may have, you're speculating?
24	THE WITNESS: That's correct because, as I
25	said, after 26 years, this gets to the preface to this

1	presentation, and that is after two decades, one's
2	recollection fades.
3	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: You
4	indicated that your relationship with your first wife
5	was acrimonious from approximately 1991 forward; is
6	that correct?
7	THE WITNESS: Probably 1988 forward.
8	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: All right.
9	But you were still filing joint returns; is that
10	right?
11	THE WITNESS: Yes.
12	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Okay. Who
13	prepared your returns from 1992 and 1993?
14	THE WITNESS: I don't recall.
15	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Do you
16	recall whether you and your then wife had arrangements
17	about who would pay taxes due, if any, for those
18	years?
19	THE WITNESS: I have no recollection of any
20	of those conversations or agreements.
21	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Do you even
22	know whether you signed those returns from '92 and
23	'93?
24	THE WITNESS: I don't, and which is why,
25	again, going to the preface of this, I did ask for

1 those returns and have never been supplied them. 2 don't know. 3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: That's all I 4 have. Thank you, Mr. Taub. 5 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor. 6 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CHENG: 7 Thank you. 8 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: Do any of 9 the parties have additional questions? I think that 10 would conclude -- go ahead. MR. COUTINHO: Yes. Sorry. We have one more 11 12 comment to make. In response to Judge Geary's 13 question regarding notices sent to the taxpayer, our 14 electronic records, Exhibit O, line -- Exhibit O to 15 our opening brief, line 6 has a -- sorry. Exhibit O 16 of our opening brief -- that's our additional -that's our Exhibit T. 17 18 MS. MOSNIER: We have more information 19 regarding the first dates we sent collection documents 20 for both the 1992 and '93 tax years. Exhibit T, which 21 is attached to the brief we filed December 27, 2016, 22 page 1, line 2 has the entry STD Notice, 11/21/94. 2.3 STD Notice stands for Statement of Tax Due Notice. 24 So the '92 tax year, the first collection and

billing notice we sent was in November of '94.

25

1	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Is there an
2	address indicated?
3	MS. MOSNIER: No. It's just a line it's
4	just a line item, and information for 1993, same
5	entry.
6	MR. COUTINHO: Yes. It's the same type of
7	entry is reflected on Exhibit O, line 6 of
8	Respondent's that is attached to Respondent's
9	opening brief. And it states that we sent the
10	Statement of Tax Due Notice on September 22, 1995.
11	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: For what
12	year was that notice, Mr. Coutinho?
13	MR. COUTINHO: That was for the 1993 tax
14	year.
15	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: And for the
16	prior notice that you made reference to in 1994, what
17	year was that for?
18	MS. MOSNIER: '92.
19	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Mr. Taub,
20	did you have anything further as to thoughts of my
21	question?
22	THE WITNESS: I have taken a look at Exhibit
23	O, and I don't see an address on any of this. So
24	there is no way I could respond as to what or where it
25	was, nor has the Franchise Tax Board provided any

1 evidence as to where it was sent other than by a 2 computer document with some numbers. 3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GEARY: Thank you. 4 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANGEJA: So if no 5 one else has any questions or comments, I will close 6 the record and conclude the hearing. I'd like to 7 thank everybody for coming today. 8 Following this hearing, the panel will 9 discuss the evidence and the argument, and we will 10 issue a written opinion within 100 days. So thank you 11 to both parties. This matter is now closed. 12 (Whereupon the proceedings were 13 concluded at 11:15 a.m.) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 2.3 24 25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Amy E. Perry, a Certified Shorthand
Reporter in and for the State of California, duly
appointed and commissioned to administer oaths, do
hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing hearing in the matter of HARRY TAUB was reported in shorthand by me, Amy E. Perry, a duly qualified Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, and thereafter transcribed into typewritten form by means of computer-aided transcription.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said hearing or in any way interested in the outcome of said hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of December, 2018.

AMY E. PERRY Certified Shorthand Reporter License No. 11880