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THE NEW CLIENT NERVOUSLY WAITING TO CONSULT with David Klasing was packed and ready to go directly to John Wayne Airport, its incoming planes visible from Klasing's 11th floor Irvine office, if Klasing's assessment of his legal predicament was as bleak as he expected. The client had been cheating on his taxes for years – and feared the IRS was about to pounce. He told Klasing his story, steeling himself for the prospect of fleeing the country permanently as soon as the meeting ended should the ready \$10,000 retainer in cash from one of his suitcases prove useless.

"You're my last stop," the client confided.

Klasing, who holds the rare distinction of being both a Certified Public Accountant and a practicing tax lawyer exceptionally well versed in ever-evolving tax code, had relatively good news. The client could avoid going to prison if he'd agree to a Domestic Voluntary Disclosure arrangement wherein Klasing could make a deal with the government on the part of his client regarding the admitted tax evasion. The issue would then "become about money instead of jail time," Klasing recalls. "I'm happy to say the client returned home that day. He's still in-country, and sleeping better at night."

Klasing is an invaluable hybrid of professionals. His primary legal focuses as an attorney are offshore voluntary disclosures (the largest area of his practice); tax law; criminal tax defense; and tax-related business law. He is simultaneously a traditional CPA who does everything from accounting to tax returns, but with particular character because of his Masters' degree in taxation and a "my way or the highway" commitment to keeping everything on the straight and narrow.

Indeed, while a young CPA at a large firm, a client threatened Klasing when he refused to falsify an Initial Public Offering. When the firm refused to back Klasing in the dispute, he quit and joined another company, where he was later fired for refusing to rubber-stamp a suspicious tax shelter claimed by a client. Those early experiences inspired Klasing to earn a law degree so he might better advise and protect clients from themselves as well as the IRS. He is now recognized as one of the most effective tax attorneys in Orange County.

"No matter what type of business you own, there are two outside professionals you need on your external management team: a business attorney and a CPA," Klasing says. "Every major business decision you make must include their input. The problem is that sometimes they have opposing opinions. With me, you get two professionals in one who always agree on the best way to handle potential tax controversies and business decisions."

After all, tax evasion in any amount, whether it's \$10 or \$10 million, is a felony "and a game-ender if you're a licensed professional," Klasing explains. "My main job is to use the law as a sword and a shield to keep clients facing criminal prosecution for tax crimes (or the mere threat of it) out of jail. I'm an amateur sleep therapist – I help people with the kinds of serious tax problems that keep them up at night."

