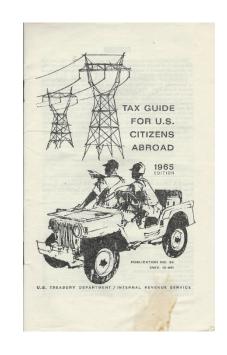
# Tax Issues for US Citizens Living & Working Abroad

Presented by
Monica Haven, EA, JD, LLM
<a href="mailto:mhaven@pobox.com">mhaven@pobox.com</a>
<a href="mailto:www.mhaven.net">www.mhaven.net</a>



# **Learning Objectives**

- Understand that US citizens living abroad have filing requirements comparable to citizens & residents living here
- Determine if certain US taxpayers may claim the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion
- Compute Housing Exclusion for wage-earners & Housing Deduction for self-employed taxpayers
- Use the Foreign Tax Credit to mitigate the effects of double taxation

### How we'll get there...

- Worldwide tax regime
- Affected taxpayers: US workers, retirees, military personnel & expats
- Eligibility for earned income exclusion: Bona fide residence vs. physical presence
- The mechanics: Form 2555
- Relief from double taxation of non-excluded income via a tax credit
- The mechanics: Form 1116

# **US Tax Policy**

- US citizens and resident aliens must report worldwide income
- Even if income earned abroad is subject to foreign tax!
- Credits & exclusions may (?) be available to mitigate duplicative tax regimes

# Citizenship-based Taxation

#### Did you know?

- US system is relic of Revenue Act of 1862
  - Designed to punish draft dodgers who fled to avoid fighting in Civil War
- Eritrea is only other country to have a similar tax system
  - Levies 2% flat tax on citizens who live abroad
  - UN Security Council condemned Eritrea for its "diaspora tax" [Resolution 2023, December 2011]



NOTE: The Duchess of Sussex (Meghan Markle) and her children will be subject to US taxation as long as she remains a US citizen

# **US Citizens Living Abroad**

- Subject to same reporting requirements as citizens & residents living in US
- Filing deadline automatically extended to June 15<sup>th</sup> if out of the country
  - But can extend to October 15<sup>th</sup> using Form 4868
  - Form 2350, in the alternative, will extend filing 30 days beyond date that qualifying tests are met for foreign earned income exclusion
- Report all income & expenses in US dollars
  - Use prevailing exchange rate at time income was received or expense paid
  - Historical rates available at <u>www.fiscal.treasury.gov</u> or any online currency converter

# Withholdings

- US employers must withhold US tax on wages paid to US citizens abroad
  - <u>Employer</u> is exempt from US withholdings if required to withhold foreign income tax
  - <u>Employee</u> may file **Form 673** to claim exemption from withholdings if eligible for exclusions
- Subject to US Social Security (SS) tax unless Totalization
   Agreement in effect
  - Currently 30 countries
  - Pay SS only to country where working; if working abroad but sent on *temporary* assignment to US, pay SS abroad



# **Military Personnel**

- Generally ineligible for Foreign Earned Income Exclusion because pay
  - is eligible for Combat Pay Exclusion,
  - is deemed non-taxable,
  - is received for services not in a foreign country (intl. waters & airspace), OR
  - is paid to individuals who do not have a foreign tax home

#### Income:

- Taxable = Active/reserve duty pay, special pay, re-enlistment bonus & leave
- Non-taxable = Living/death/family/moving/travel allowances & in-kind benefits
- Automatic 2- month extension if serving abroad; additional 6-months if serving in combat zone

#### Tax Home vs. Abode

#### Tax Home

- Main place of business or employment (or where you live if no regular place of business)
- ≠ Residence or domicile



#### Abode

 Where taxpayer maintains family, economic & personal ties (based on facts & circumstances)

If abode in US → NO foreign tax home

→ NO Foreign Earned Income Exclusion



# **Polling Question #1**

The US is one of a few countries throughout the world that employs a citizenship-based tax system.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False



#### Taxable Income

- All foreign earned income subject to US tax unless eligible for:
  - Foreign Earned Income Exclusion
  - Foreign Housing Exclusion
  - Foreign Housing Deduction
- Amounts excluded must be added back when computing regular & AMT liabilities → bumps taxable income into higher marginal tax bracket

Taxpayer received \$80K foreign income & \$20K US-source income...

\$80K	Foreign Earned Income
+ <u>20K</u>	Other Income
\$100K	Gross Income
- <u>80K</u>	Foreign Earned Income Exclusion
\$20K	Taxable Income

**BUT** taxed at marginal bracket of \$100K!!!

### To Qualify for Exclusions...

- Must be US citizen or resident alien (not NRA)
- Must have foreign earned income
  - Source determined where services are performed, not payment received
- Must pass <u>either</u> test:
  - Bona Fide Residence (BFR) reside in foreign country > 1 full tax year from January 1st through December 31st
  - Physical Presence Test (PPT) be physically present in foreign country ≥ 330 days during any consecutive 12-month period
- Must have <u>tax home</u> in foreign country no US abode
  - "Foreign" is any territory not under US sovereignty
    - Guam, Am. Samoa, US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico & territorial waters = US
    - International airspace & waters ≠ foreign
    - Antarctica ≠ foreign (sovereign-less region)

### **Examples of Qualified Taxpayers**

#### Example 1:

US citizen lived in Germany from 9/1/20 - 10/31/22 (14 months)

→ Fails BFR since not in Germany for full calendar year (will pass PPT in 2022)

#### Example 2:

US citizen employed on oil rig off UK coast with 28-day on/28-day off schedule; returns to US during off-periods

→ Fails both BFR & PPT with abode in US & no tax home abroad

#### Example 3:

US Executive transferred to Paris for ≥ 18 months, but kept US house. Moved family, furniture & pets, obtained foreign driving license, opened local bank acct

→ Passes both BFR & PPT with tax home in foreign country

#### Example 4:

Contractor provided services to military in Afghanistan & Iraq; was not allowed to leave base. Family stayed at home in US.

→ Fails both BFR & PPT since he did nothing to establish residence abroad

BUT Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 allows military contractors in combat zones to claim exclusion

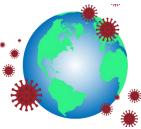
#### Application for Extension of Time To File U.S. Income Tax Return

For U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad Who Expect To Qualify for Special Tax Treatment

Text Page 4

**Day Count** Only FULL days count Dates of arrival & departure not counted 5-year entry/departure history available on I-94 website cause my tax home is in a foreign country and I expect to qualify for special tax treatment by meeting the "bona" If unable to satisfy time limits by due date, file Form 2350 Extension will be granted for 30 days beyond date of test's time limit

Or, amend a prior-year return on which income exclusion not claimed because not yet in-country for the requisite 330 days



# Absence due to Pandemic

- Day count suspended for time spent in US if travel impacted due to COVID-19
  - Left foreign country on/after 12/1/19 (China) or 2/1/20 (all others) and before 7/15/20
  - Individual must have residency or physical presence in-country prior to departure
  - Individual must have expected to satisfy BFR or PPT but for COVID-related travel disruption

#### **Example**

Taxpayer was physically present in Poland at year-start & expected to remain through year-end

Taxpayer traveled to US in early March to care for elderly parents but could not return to Poland until August

→ Despite absence, taxpayer qualifies for PPT day count as per COVID relief

 NOTE: US citizens abroad may qualify for Stimulus Relief (EIP) if Foreign Earned Income Exclusion helps to drop income below eligibility threshold

# PPT: 12-month period

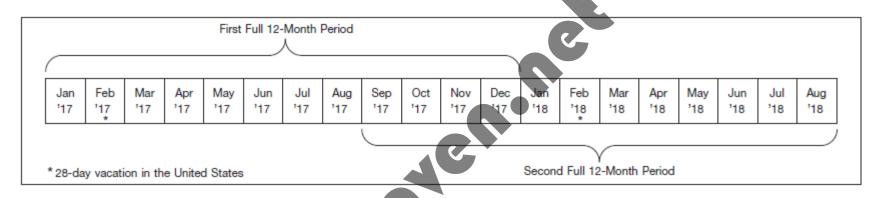
- Can begin with any day of the month
- Must be consecutive months



- Need not start with first full day in a foreign country or end with last day BUT can choose any 12-month period that gives greatest exclusion
- 12-month periods can overlap one another
- Can be spent in > 1 foreign country (just not US)
- Vacation time abroad counts

#### **EXAMPLE: Overlapping Period**

 Ethan worked in New Zealand from January 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018 (20 months) and spent 28 days each February on vacation in US



- → Ethan qualifies for PPT because he spent at least 330 full days during two 12-month periods
  - January 1, 2020 December 31, 2020 <u>and</u>
  - September 1, 2020 August 31, 2021

### **Special BFR & PPT Rules**

- Taxpayer who has certified to a foreign government that he is not a resident of host country cannot satisfy BFR
- Taxpayer <u>in</u>eligible for exclusion/deductions if living in foreign country in violation of US law (e.g. Cuba)

**Taxpayers serving at Guantanamo Bay are eligible** 

- Time limits may be waived if taxpayer is forced to leave foreign country due to war
  - Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Ethiopia & Iraq (TY'21)



# Polling Question # 2

#### The day count for the PPT:

- A. May use any consecutive 12-month period.
- B. Must begin on the date of arrival and end of the date of departure.

- ☐ A only.
- $\Box$  B only.
- Both A and B.

### **Foreign Earned Income Exclusion**

- Earned income must be received for personal services performed
- Does not include value of meals/lodging, pension/annuity pymts, US govt salaries, investment or passive inc, gambling winnings, alimony
  - **NOTE:** Excluded income may be subject to Social Security Tax
- Max exclusion (\$112,000/person in 2022)
  - = Foreign earned income Foreign housing exclusion claimed
- Use Form 2555
- May use Form 2555EZ if income < max exclusion amount, no SE earnings & no housing exclusion/deduction claimed</li>
- Exclusion must be affirmatively elected by filing tax return
- May claim on late-filed return no later than 1 year after original due date



# **Foreign Housing Exclusion**

- Amounts received for <u>employer-provided</u> housing are eligible for exclusion
  - ELIGIBLE COSTS: Rent, repairs, utilities, insurance, occupancy taxes, furniture rental & parking
  - NOT ELIGIBLE: Deductible mortgage interest & property taxes, leasehold improvements, depreciation & cost of domestic labor not eligible
- "Employer-provided"
  - All wage & salary earnings except self-employment
  - It is presumed that employee uses employer-provided funds (wages) to pay for housing

ALL qualified housing expenses – whether paid by employer or employee – are eligible for exclusion

Total housing expenses may not exceed foreign earned income

### **Housing Exclusion Limitations**

- Only amounts in excess of government-calculated base amount are excludable
  - Base amount = 16% of allowable Income Exclusion pro-rated on daily basis
  - In 2022:  $$112,000 \times 16\% \div 365 \text{ days} = $49.10/day}$
- Housing Exclusion limited to maximum 30% of Income Exclusion
  - In 2022: Expenses between \$49.10 and 92.05/day are excludable

Max Housing Exclusion in 2022 = \$15,680

Certain high-cost locales eligible for additional exclusion amounts

# **Housing & Income Exclusions**

- Housing Exclusion must be claimed before Income Exclusion
- Housing Exclusion may be claimed in addition to Income Exclusion
  - Housing Exclusion claimed on Line 36 of Form 2555
  - Income Exclusion claimed on Line 42
  - Total allowable exclusion on Line 43 equals sum of Lines 36 & 42



Combined exclusion could exceed annual threshold [\$112,000 in 2022]

In 2022, Joe's foreign earned income equals \$150,000 (greater than allowable Income Exclusion of \$112,000)

Joe may claim Income Exclusion of \$112,000 plus Housing Exclusion of \$15,680  $\rightarrow$  Total exclusions that can be claimed = \$127,680

# **Foreign Housing Deduction**

- Available only to <u>self-employed</u>
- Cannot exceed foreign earned income less Income and/or Housing Exclusion claimed
- Excess deductions may be carried over 1 year

Carry-over not available for Housing Exclusion

 Deduction is calculated like Exclusion but claimed as an Adjustment to Income – enter on Form 1040, Schedule 1, Line 8 with notation "Form 2555"

### **Example: Housing Deduction**

- In 2022, Felipe earned \$130K incl. \$65K from wages & \$65K from self-employment
- Housing expenses totaled \$12K, one-half was employer-provided
  - Step 1: Compute Housing Exclusion
    - → Taxpayer may claim \$6,000

#### Step 2: Compute Income Exclusion

65,000 Income Exclusion (wages	65,000 I	Income I	Exclusion	(wages
--------------------------------	----------	----------	-----------	--------

65,000 Income Exclusion (self-employment earnings)

130,000 Total Earnings

- 6,000 LESS: Housing Exclusion

- 112,000 LESS: Income Exclusion (max. in 2022)

12,000 Taxable Income (in excess of annual exclusion limit)

# **Example: Housing Deduction (cont'd)**

Step 3: **Compute Housing Deduction** 

\$6K eligible but Felipe exceeded the limitation (\$112,000 in 2022)

→ Carry deduction forward to 2023

On 1040: Complete Return

> **Gross Income** 130,000

Income & Housing Exclusions (= \$112,000 + 6,000) -118,000

Adjusted Gross Income 12,000

and 6,000 Carry-forward to TY'23





# Polling Question # 3

The cost of employer-provided housing may be claimed when computing the Foreign Housing Deduction.

- Yes
- ☐ No

Part I: General Taxpayer Info

Departn	2555 sent of the Treasury Revenue Service			reign Earne				OMB No. 1545-0074  20 Attachmer Sequence No. 344
	THE CHANGE		For Use by U	.S. Citizens and	d Resident A	lliens Only		
Name s	hown on Form 1040		<b>36</b>				Your soci	al security number
Pari					0°			
1 Y	our foreign addre	ss (includin	vg country)	\(\frac{1}{2}\)			2 Your o	occupation
3	Employer's na	me 🗠 🔃				•		
48	Employer's U.:	s. addres	s <b>-</b>					
ь	Employer's for	elgn addr	ess 🕨					
5	Employer is (cl any that apply)	je 🏴	a ☐ A foreign exti d ☐ A foreign afti	ate of a U.S. com	pany	b A U.S. compar e Other (specify)		c Self
6a		ll .	Form 2555 or Form 25					
ь			555 or 2555-EZ after 1		r of the exclus	lons, check here 🟲	and g	
C			either of the exclusion					. Yes No
đ			enter the type of exclu	sion and the tax y	ear for which	the revocation was	effective.	<u> </u>
7			ı a citizen/national? 🕨					
8a	Did you maint tax home? See	ain a sepa Second	arate foreign residenc I foreign household in	e for your family b the instructions	ecause of ad	verse living condition		ur . □Yes □No
b			country of the separat		e. Also, enter	the number of days	during y	our tax year that you
9			iring your tax year and		ed. 🕨		_	

#### Part II: Bona Fide Residence?

Part	Tar	cpayers Qualit	fying Under B	lona Fide Residen	ce Test (see in	nstructions)		
10		a fide residence				anded ►		
11	Kind of liv	ing quarters in fo	oreign country 🕨	a Purchased h		ented house or	apartment	Rented room
				d Quarters fun		ell'		
<b>12a</b>				ad during any part of	the tax year? .			Yes No
	-	who and for who	_					
13a				ne authorities of the that country? See in				☐ Yes ☐ No
b	Are your	required to pay I	ncome tax to th	e country where you	claim bona fide	residence? See	instructions .	Yes No
	If you ar	swered "Yes"	to 13a and "N	o" to 13b, you do n	ot qualify as a l	ona fide resid	ent. Do not co	mplete the rest of
	this part						•	-
14				es or its possession art IV, but report it or		t year, comple	te columns (a)-	(d) below. Do not
	) Date xd in U.S.	(b) Date left U.S.	(d) Number of days in U.S. on business	(d) Income earned in U.S. on business (attach computation)	(a) Data arrived in U.S.	(b) Date left U.S.	(c) Number of days in U.S. on business	(d) Income earned in U.S. on business (attach computation)
15a	List any	contractual term	s or other cond	Itions relating to the	ength of your er	nployment abro	ad. ▶	
b				ntered the foreign co				
C	Did your	visa limit the len	igth of your stay	or employment in a	foreign country?	7 If "Yes," attact	n explanation .	Yes No
d	Did you r	maintain a home	In the United S	tates while living abr	oad?			Yes No
е	If "Yes," to you. ▶		fyour home, wi	nether it was rented,	the names of the	occupants, an	d their relations	hip
For Pa	•		ine, see the For	n 1040 instructions.		Cat. No. 1190	NP	Form <b>2555</b> (2011)

Taxpayer must reside in foreign country 1 <u>full</u> calendar year from January 1st through December 31st

Part III: Physical Presence?

	F7						angles and
Part	Taxpayers Qualifying Under Physics	ical Presence T	est (see instruc	tions)			
16	The physical presence test is based on the 1	2-month period fro	om 🟲 🔃 🚄		through 🟲		
17	Enter your principal country of employment of	turing your tax yea	r. ►				
18	If you traveled abroad during the 12-month profession countries that did not involve travel more. If you have no travel to report during the 12-month period." Do not include the income	on or over intern the period, enter "	ational waters, or Physically present	n or over t In a foreign	he United Si country or c	tates, for 24 ho ountries for the	urs or
	(a) Name of country (including U.S.)	(b) Date arrived	(c) Zate left	(d) Full days present in country	(e) Number of days in U.S. on business	(f) Income earned in on business (att computation)	

- Taxpayer must be physically present in foreign country ≥ 330 days during any consecutive 12-month period.
- Once PPT is satisfied, taxpayer may amend a prior-year return to claim pro-rated Exclusion based on number of days present during tax (calendar) year.

#### Part IV: Calculate Foreign Income

Part IV	All Tax	payers
---------	---------	--------

Note: Enter on lines 19 through 23 all income, including noncash income, you earned and actually or constructively received during your 2011 tax year for services you performed in a foreign country. If any of the foreign earned income received this tax year was earned in a prior tax year, or will be earned in a later tax year (such as a bonus), see the instructions. Do not include income from line 14, column (d), or line 18, column (f). Report amounts in U.S. dollars, using the exchange rates in effect when you actually or constructively received the income.

If you are a cash basis taxpayer, report on Form 1040 all income you received in 2011, no matter when you performed

	2011 Foreign Earned Income		Amount (in U.S. dollars)	
19	Total wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions, etc	19		
20	Allowable share of income for personal services performed (see instructions):			
а	In a business (Including farming) or profession	20a		<u> </u>
b	in a partnership. List partnership's name and address and type of income.			
		20b		L
21	Noncash income (market value of property or facilities furnished by employer—attach statement			
	showing how it was determined):			
а	Home (lodging)	21a		L
b	Meals	21b		lder
C	Car	21c		lder
d	Other property or facilities. List type and amount.			
		21d		
22	Allowances, reimbursements, or expenses paid on your behalf for services you performed:			$\overline{}$
а	Cost of living and overseas differential			
b	Family			
C	Education			
d	Home leave			l
e	Quarters			
f	For any other purpose. List type and amount. ▶	1		
	221			
g	Add lines 22a through 22f	22g		
23	Other foreign earned income. List type and amount. ▶			
		23		L
24	Add lines 19 through 21d, line 22g, and line 23	24		L
25	Total amount of meals and lodging included on line 24 that is excludable (see instructions)	25		L
26	Subtract line 25 from line 24. Enter the result here and on line 27 on page 3. This is your 2011			
	foreign earned income	26		
			Form 2555	(2011)

#### Pts V - VIII: Housing & Income Exclusions

Form 2	565 (2011)		P	age 3
Part	V All Taxpayers			
27	Enter the amount from line 26	27		
Part	Taxpayers Claiming the Housing Exclusion and/or Deduction	<b>A</b>		
28 29a	Qualified housing expenses for the tax year (see instructions)	28		
30 b	Enter limit on housing expenses (see instructions)	29b 30		
31	Number of days in your qualifying period that fall within your 2011 tax year (see instructions)	32		
33	Subtract line 32 from line 30. If the result is zero or less, do not compete the rest of this part or any of Part IX	33		
34 35	Enter employer-provided amounts (see instructions)	35	х.	
36	Housing exclusion. Multiply line 33 by line 35. Enter the result but do not enter more than the amount on line 34. Also, complete Part VIII	36		
Part	Income exclusion, complete Parts VII and VIII before Part IX.  Taxpayers Claiming the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion			
37	Maximum foreign earned income exclusion	37	\$92,900	00
38	If you completed Part V(, enter the number of days in your qualifying period that days in your qualifying period that days tall within your 2011 tax Year (see the instructions for line 31).  If line 38 and the number of days in your 2011 tax year (usually 365) are the same, enter *1.000.",			
	Otherwise, divide line 38 by the number of days in your 2011 tax year and enter the result as a decimal (rounded to at least three places).	39	× .	
40 41	Multiply line 37 by line 39	40		
42	Foreign earned income exclusion. Enter the smaller of line 40 or line 41. Also, complete Part VIII ▶	42		
Part	Taxpayers Claiming the Housing Exclusion, Foreign Earned Income Exclusion,	or B	oth	
43 44	Add lines 36 and 42	43		
45	Subtract line 44 from line 43. Enter the result here and in parentheses on Form 1040, line 21.  Next to the amount enter "Form 2555." On Form 1040, subtract this amount from your income to arrive at total income on Form 1040, line 22	45		

Part IX: Housing Deduction

			1	
Part	Taxpayers Claiming the Housing Deduction — Complete this part only if (a) line 33 (b) line 27 is more than line 43.	3 is m	nore than line 36	and
46	Subtract line 36 from line 33	46		
47	Subtract line 43 from line 27	47		
48	Enter the smaller of line 46 or line 47	48		
	Note: If line 47 is more than line 48 and you could not deduct all of your 2010 housing deduction because of the 2010 limit, use the worksheet on page 4 of the instructions to figure the amount to enter on line 49. Otherwise, go to line 50.			
49	Housing deduction carryover from 2010 (from worksheet on page 4 of the instructions)	49		
50	Housing deduction. Add lines 48 and 49. Enter the total here and on Form 1040 to the left of line 36. Next to the amount on Form 1040, enter "Form 2555." Add it to the total adjustments			
	reported on that line	50		

Form 2555 (2011)

#### Form 1040, Schedule 1

SCHEDULE 1 (Form 1040)	Additional Income and Adjustments to Inco	me	OMB No. 1545-0074	REMINDER: Enter
Department of the Treasu Internal Revenue Service	► Attach to Form 1040.  Go to www.irs.gov/Form1040 for instructions and the latest informa	tion.	Attachment Sequence No. 01	
Name(s) shown on Form	1040	Your	social security number	foreign wages on
1	Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state and local income taxes  Alimony received  Business income or (loss). Attach Schedule C or C-EZ  Capital gain or (loss). Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here  Other gains or (losses). Attach Form 4797  Reserved  Reserved  Reserved  Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. Attach Schedule F  Farm income or (loss). Attach Schedule F	14 15b 16b		Form 1040, Line 7 and/or foreign self-employment income on Line 12
Adjustments 2 to Income 2	Oa Reserved  Other income. List type and amount ► FORM 2555  Combine the amounts in the far right column. If you don't have any adjustment income, enter here and include on Form 1040, line 6. Otherwise, go to line 3  Educator expenses			Foreign Earned Income and Housing Exclusion [from Form 2555, Part VII
3 3 3 3	Attach Form 3903  Deductible part of self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE  Self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans  Self-employed health insurance deduction  Penalty on early withdrawal of savings  Alimony paid b Recipient's SSN ▶ 31a  IRA deduction  Student loan interest deduction  Reserved  34	20	nedule 1 (Form 1040) 2018	Foreign Housing Deduction [from Form 2555, Part IX]



# Polling Question # 4

The Foreign Earned Income Exclusion is computed on Form 2555 prior to the Foreign Housing Exclusion.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False



## Foreign Tax Credit (or Deduction)

Use a separate Form 1116 for each category of income listed below. See *Categories of Income* in the instructions. Check only one box on each Form 1116. Report all amounts in U.S. dollars except where specified in Part II below.

- Taxpayer may elect to claim foreign taxes paid as a nonrefundable Credit (Form 1116) or as Deduction (Schedule A)
  - **EXCEPT** may claim credit directly on **Form 1040**, Schedule 3, Line 48 if only foreign interest & dividends on stocks held ≥ 16 days & foreign tax liability < \$300 (Single) or \$600 (MFJ)
- Credit/Deduction may not be claimed on foreign taxes
  - imposed by countries not recognized by US govt.
  - that would be refundable if taxpayer filed a claim
  - connected to certain oil and gas transactions
  - on dividends from stock held < 16 days</li>

Enter the name of the foreign country or U.S.

- that are deductible only as itemized deductions (e.g., property & VAT)
- Available only to US citizens and resident aliens



### Credit vs. Deduction

#### **Advantage to Credit**

- Credit offers dollar-for-dollar reduction of tax liability
- Cash-basis taxpayer may choose to take the credit in the year foreign taxes are paid or accrued
- Unused credit may be carried back 1 year and carried forward 10 years
- Credit is preferable if foreign tax rates > US tax rates

#### Advantage to Deduction

- Deduction is available for other taxes (not just income)
- Deduction removes income from AGI taxpayer may benefit from Schedule A deductions otherwise limited by AGI

Choice to use credit or deduction may be made annually but is applicable to *all* foreign taxes in that year

Can amend return for up to 10 years after due date (w/o extension)

- EXAMPLE: May amend to claim Credit for certain Soc. Security taxes paid to France now deemed to have been *income* taxes
- If changing to Deduction, refund claim will be limited by SOL

### No Credit for Excluded Income

- Taxpayer claimed Earned Income Exclusion on \$70K wages
- Paid foreign income tax of \$10K on wage income to India
- Received \$2K dividends from India
- Paid foreign income tax of \$600 on dividend income to India

\$70,000	Wages	6000
+2,000	Dividends	/ond
\$72,000	Total Income	
<u>-70,000</u>	Foreign Earned Income Exclusion	
\$2,000	Taxable Income [taxed at marginal rate ap	plicable to \$72,000]

→ May only claim \$600 Foreign Tax Credit (Deduction) since remaining tax was attributable excluded income

## **Foreign Tax Limitations**

- Credit (Deduction) limited to lesser of:
  - US tax that would have been paid on foreign income, or
  - the actual foreign tax paid\*
    - \* or treaty rate (if < statutory rate)

#### **Facts**

- US citizen's income subject to 60% tax rate in Germany
- Same income would be subject to only 25% in US
- → maximum allowable Credit (Deduction) is amount of tax at 25% rate
- excess tax paid eligible for 1 year carry-back & 10-year carry-forward [Credit expires if unused]

If foreign tax rate < US tax rate, taxpayer will be liable for difference on Form 1040

## **EXAMPLE: Reduced Treaty Rate**

- \$2K dividend income (subject to treaty tax rate of 15% if withholding agent notified)
- Taxpayer failed to notify 

  tax w/h at 35%
- → Max creditable foreign tax = \$300
- → Excess withholdings non-refundable





## **Polling Question #5**

Foreign taxes paid on excluded foreign earned income may:

- ☐ Be claimed as a credit on Form 1116
- ☐ Be claimed as a deduction on Schedule A
- Not be claimed.

## **Calculating Maximum Credit**

**Foreign Source Taxable Income** 

x US Inc Tax before Credit

**Worldwide Taxable Income** 

- Credits must be separately calculated for each income category (7)
- Unused credits must be carried back 1 year, then forward 10 years
- Carried amounts can only be used if foreign income reported on return

### Foreign Income from Multiple Countries

During the tax year, Taxpayer received and paid taxes to:

Country	Income	Taxes Paid
Austria	20,000.	5,000.
Belgium	10,000.	3,000.
USA	50,000.	10,000.

- 1. Total Foreign Taxes Paid = \$5K + 3K € \$8K
- 2. Maximum FTC = (\$20K + 10K foreign income) ÷ (\$20K + 10K + 50K worldwide income) X \$10K US tax paid = \$3,750

Allowable FTC = Lesser of actual tax paid (# 1) or max. FTC (# 2) = \$3,750

- → That leaves \$4,250 ( = \$8,000 3,750) of unused foreign tax paid (which means some of the foreign income will have been doubly taxed)
- → Unused FTC balance carried back 1 yr and then carried forward 10 yrs

### **4972**

# Income Categories



Yes No

ore January 2, 1936, and (c) a

- 1. §951A: Global intangible low-taxed income(GILTI) included in gross income of US shareholders of foreign corp [new since TCJA]
- 2. Foreign Branch: Qualified business unit profits can only be offset by foreign taxes attributable to the specific unit [new since TCJA]
- 3. Passive: Investment income, rents & royalties

Complete this part to choose the 200

- 4. General: Wages & business income participant who died, did you use For
- 5. §901(j): Income from sanctioned countries → no credit allowed
- 6. Treaty re-sourced: US-sourced income treated as foreign-source [file *Form 8833* to claim treaty position]

ital gain election (see instructions)

7. Lump-sum distributions: Pensions & annuities [File *Form 4972* for annualized tax treatment]

## **Category Rules**

Separate Form 1116 must be filed for each category

 Foreign tax must be allocated to each category based on ratio of category income to total income

Expenses must be apportioned to each category based on foreign

(or US) tax law



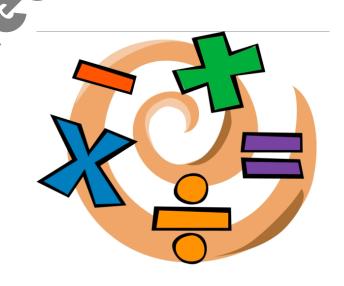
## **Example: Category Allocation**

- Wages (\$100K) + interest (\$5K) deductions (\$2,100) = 102.9K net
- Foreign tax paid (\$6,400)

Step 1: Allocate expenses 100K/105K x 2,100 = 2K "wage" expenses

Step 2: Calculate net category income 100K – 2K = 98K net "wage" income

Step 3: Allocate foreign tax  $98K/102.9K \times 6,400 = 6,095$  "wage" taxes



→ Report on *Form 1116* (General Category)

Interest reported as Passive Category on another *Form 1116* (\$4,900 net & \$305 foreign tax)

## Foreign Tax Credit: Rules

- Income, expenses & taxes must be reported in USD
  - Convert using Treasury rates or any online exchange rate provider
- May claim credit for taxes paid or accrued
  - Even cash-basis taxpayer
  - Must use separate Form 1116
  - If foreign tax return unavailable to substantiate accrued taxes, taxpayer must submit statement with computation
  - Once elected, accrued taxes must be forever reported

### **More Rules**

- Foreign-source income must be adjusted for foreign capital gains eligible for LTCG & other favorable rates on US return
- Interest expense must be allocated between foreign and US-source income
- *Gross* (not net) business income must be used to determine foreign taxable income
- Foreign salaries must be sourced to country based on time spent (if total foreign and US wages > \$250K)

### **Foreign Tax**

#### Did you know?

- As per applicable tax treaties, US may collect tax on behalf of a foreign government
  - Foreign country must certify that revenue claim has been "finally determined"
  - All administrative & judicial rights of taxpayer in foreign country have lapsed or been exhausted
  - US may now collect as if the debt were its own
- Taxpayer has no further defenses (in US or abroad)

Dileng v Comm, 1:15-CV-1777-WSD (ND GA) (January 15, 2016)





## **Polling Question #6**

Foreign taxes attributable to different categories of income must be reported on separate Forms 1116.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

### Form 1116

### Part I: Foreign Taxable Income

Departme	1116 nt of the Treasury evenue Service (00)	(Ind	reign Tax Cre Ividual, Estate, or Tr 1040, 1040-SR, 1040-1 11116 for instructions	ust) NR, 1041, or 990		OMB No. 15 1	_
Name				Identif	ying number as shown	on page 1 of your tax return	
		16 for each category of income listed be s in U.S. dollars except where specified		Income in the in	structions. Check onl	y one box on each Form	
_	oction 951A categ oreign branch cat			ction 901() incon rtain income re-s		Lump-sum distributions	
	ident of (name o						
		s to only one foreign country or U.S					
Part	_	n country or U.S. possession, use a ncome or Loss From Sources					
rait	I divable ii	icome or Loss From Sources		ountry or U.S. Po		Total	
i	Enter the nam	ne of the foreign country or U.S.	A	B	С	(Add cols. A, B, and C.)	Toyngyor must file
	possession .						Taxpayer must file
1a		from sources within country shown					concrete Forms 444C for
	instructions):	the type checked above (see					separate <b>Forms 1116</b> for
						1a	each type of income.
ь		a is compensation for personal an employee, your total					<b>3</b> 1
	compensation f	from all sources is \$250,000 or					
	more, and you determine its so	u used an alternative basis to ource (see instructions)					
Deduct		(Caution: See instructions.):					"Passive" category includes
2	Expenses defin	nitely related to the income on line					9
		ment)					most investment income,
3	Pro rata share related:	of other deductions not definitely		' \ \			,
a		d deductions or standard deduction					rents & annuities.
	(see instructions	s)					Torito & arritantes.
ь		ns (attach statement)					
۰		d3b	<b>—</b>				
d	_	ource income (see instructions) . rom all sources (see instructions) .	<b>—</b>				"Conoral" actoromy includes
f		y line 3e (see instructions)					"General" category includes
9		by line 3f					0 1
4		f interest expense (see instructions):					wages & business income.
a		e interest (use the Worksheet for					•
ь		e Interest in the instructions)	<del>                                     </del>				
5		reign sources	<del>                                     </del>				
6		4a, 4b, and 5				6	_
7	Subtract line 6 f	from line 1a. Enter the result here and	on line 15, page 2		🕨	7	-

### **Form 1116**

Part II: Foreign Taxes

У	Credit is claimed for taxes (you must check one)				For	eign taxes paid	or accrued	<b>&gt;</b>			
뒫	(h) Paid		In foreign	currency			5	In U.S. d	ollars		
Country	(i) Accrued	Taxos	withheld at sou	rce on:	(n) Other	Taxos w	thread at sour	de on:	(r) Ot		(s) Total foreign
0	6 Date paid or accrued	(k) Dividends	(I) Rents and royalties	(m) Interest	foreign taxes paid or accrued	(o) Dividends	(p) Rents and royalties	(q) Interest	foreign paid accru	or	taxes paid or accrued (add cols. (o) through (r))
A											
В					16						
C											
8	Add lines A throu	gh C, colun	nn (s). Enter	the total he	re and on	ine 9, page 2	2		. 📂	8	
For	Paperwork Reduction	Act Notice,	see instruction	ons.			Cat. No.	11440U			Form <b>1116</b> (2011)

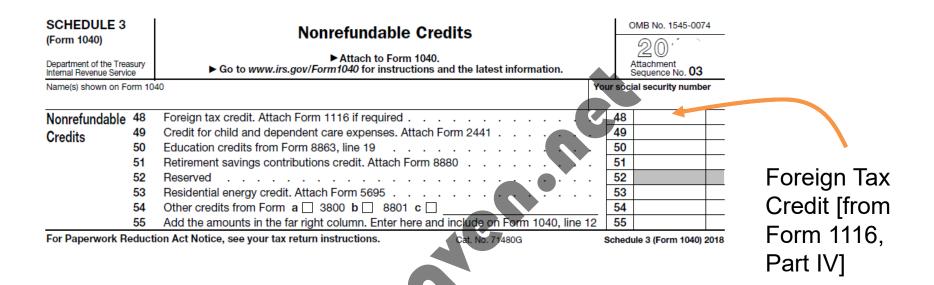
Cash-basis taxpayer may claim Credit (Deduction) for taxes paid or accrued.

### Form 1116

#### Part III: Calculating the Credit

t	Figuring the Credit				
	Enter the amount from line 8. These are your total foreign taxes paid or accrued for the category of income checked above Part I	9			
	Carryback or carryover (attach detailed computation)	10		-	
	Add lines 9 and 10	11		-	
	Reduction in foreign taxes (see instructions)	12			
	Taxes reclassified under high tax kickout (see instructions)	13			
	Combine lines 11, 12, and 13. This is the total amount of foreign taxes	availa	able for credit	14	
	Enter the amount from line 7. This is your taxable income or (loss) from sources outside the United States (before adjustments) for the category of income checked above Part I (see instructions)	15			
	Adjustments to line 15 (see instructions)	16		+	
	Combine the amounts on lines 15 and 16. This is your net foreign source taxable income. (If the result is zero or less, you have no foreign tax credit for the category of income you checked above Part I. Skip lines 18 through 22. However, if you are filing more than one Form 1116, you must complete line 20.)	17			
	Individuals: Enter the amount from Form 1040, ine 41, or Form 1040NR, line 39. Estates and trusts: Enter your taxable income without the deduction for your exemption	18			
	Caution: If you figured your tax using the lower rates on qualified of instructions.				
	Divide line 17 by line 18. If line 17 is more than line 18, enter "1"			19	
	Individuals: Enter the amount from Form 1040, line 44. If you are amount from Form 1040 R, line 42. Estates and trusts: Enter the Schedule G, line 1a, or the total of Form 990-T, lines 36 and 37			20	
	Caution: If you are completing line 20 for separate category e instructions.	(lump	-sum distributions), see	2.0	
	Multiply line 20 by line 19 (max roum amount of credit)			21	
	Enter the smaller of line 14 or line 21. If this is the only Form 111 through 27 and enter this amount on line 28. Otherwise, complete the instructions)	appro	opriate line in Part IV (see	22	
t	Summary of Credits From Separate Parts III (see instri				1
	Credit for taxes on passive category income	23			
	Credit for taxes on general category income	24		1	
	Credit for taxes on certain income re-sourced by treaty	25		1	
	Credit for taxes on lump-sum distributions	26			
	Add lines 23 through 26			27	
	Enter the smaller of line 20 or line 27	٠		28	
	Reduction of credit for international boycott operations. See instruction			29	
	Subtract line 29 from line 28. This is your foreign tax credit. Enter he	re an	d on Form 1040, line 47:	1	1

### Form 1040, Schedule 3



**REMINDER:** If foreign selfemployment income, calculate SE Tax & enter on Schedule 4

**REMINDER:** Tax on Form 1040, Line 11 is calculated at marginal rate applicable to taxable income, *including* exempt foreign earned income



# Polling Question # 7

The Foreign Tax Credit computed on Form 1116 is transferred to which schedule of Form 1040?

- ☐ Schedule A.
- ☐ Schedule 3.



## **Foreign Retirement Accounts**

- Employee contributions not deductible
- Employer contributions added to US taxable income



- Accrued income is taxable to plan participant each year
- Distributions are subject to both US and foreign taxation
  - Double taxation at retirement potentially mitigated by Foreign Tax Credit but...
  - Participants subject to tax on income accrual and asset withdrawal
- Some relief offered via tax treaties that may (?) provide for tax treatment similar to qualified US plans.

## **Reporting Obligations**

- Foreign pension plans typically treated as "trusts" by IRS.
- May be required to file:
  - Form 3520 Annual Return to Report Transactions with Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts
  - FinCEN Form 114 Foreign Bank Account Report
  - Form 8938 Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets
  - Form 8621 Information Return by a Shareholder of a Passive Foreign Investment Company or Qualified Electing Fund



### **Passive Foreign Investment Companies**

- PFIC holds passive assets or receives passive income from interest,
   dividends, capital gains, etc.
- Include foreign mutual funds, money market accounts, pension funds & pooled investment vehicles
- PFIC regime designed to level playing field between US & foreign mutual funds
  - US funds required to pass through income annually
  - PFIC shareholders must report undistributed earning annually

## **Foreign Social Security Benefits**

- Generally taxed by US if foreign pensions or annuity
- Often subject to foreign tax as well, UNLESS
  - Totalization Agreement: Taxed only by country of residence
  - Only 30 agreements currently

#### **Example**

German SS benefits received by US residents taxed like American SS benefits

- Subject to 50% or 85% inclusion
- No tax in Germany



### **Deductions**

- Charitable contributions:
  - Payments to foreign charities are not deductible [except certain Canadian, Israeli &
     Mexican organizations as per treaties]
  - Payments to US charities which forward funds to foreign entities are deductible
- Moving expenses:
  - No longer deductible as per TCJA
- Travel expenses:
  - Must be directly related
  - Must not be "living" expenses for foreign assignment expected to last > 1 year
- Depreciation:
  - Real property over 40 years SL [TCJA: changed to 30 years for residential ppty]
  - Personal property over 12 years SL

## Sale of Foreign Real Estate

#### Bifurcated reporting

- 1. Report gain (loss) on sale of property as capital
- 2. Report gain (loss) attributable to currency fluctuation at time of loan repayment as ordinary income
  - If dollar strengthens, use fewer dollars than anticipated to repay loan  $\rightarrow$  GAIN
  - If dollar weakens, use more dollars than originally anticipated  $\rightarrow$  LOSS

NOTE 1: Loss cannot be used to offset gain from property sale

NOTE 2: Loss is not deductible if loan secured by residence or personal property



## **Example: Foreign Real Estate**

- 2/4/11: Bought French villa for €1 million cash + €1.75 million interest-only loan
- 9/19/19: Sold for €5 million & repaid loan

	Date	Euros (€)	Exch Rate (\$/€)	USD (\$)
Sales Proceeds	9/19/2019	5,000,000	1.1056	5,528,045
Purchase Price	2/4/2011	2,750,000	1.3581	(3,734,719)
Gain on Sale		2,250,000		1,793,326
Loan at Origination	2/4/2011	1,750,000	1.3581	2,376,639
Loan at Payoff	9/19/2019	1,750,000	1.1056	(1,934,800)
Gain from Exchange Rates				441,839

- Report:
  - \$1,793,326 LTCG
  - \$441,839 Ordinary income



## **Polling Question #8**

Participants in foreign retirement accounts may be required to file:

- ☐ Form 1040 to report employer contributions.
- ☐ Form 8938 to report a specified asset.
- ☐ FinCEN 114 to report a foreign account.
- ☐ Form 8621 to report a PFIC
- ☐ Form 3520 to report a foreign trust.
- All of the above.

### 8854

# Initial and Annual Expatriation Statement Expatriation Tax Tax



- Exit tax on taxpayer who renounces (or inadvertently forfeits) US
   citizenship if principal purpose is tax avoidance
- IRS presumes tax avoidance for high-income, high net worth taxpayer:
  - Average annual income for previous 5 yrs > \$178K (in 2022), OR
  - Net worth > \$2 million, OR
  - If non-compliant with US tax laws for preceding 5 years
- 5 Date of expatriation under section 877A(g)(3) for expanding citizens and long-term residents. See instructions.
- Global assets are deemed sold on date of expatriation
  - Long-term resident with dual residence at a treaty country. Date commencing to be treated, for tax purposes, as a resident of the treaty country
- Taxed on resulting gains > \$767K (in 2022)
- Must file Form 8854 and Form 1040-NR for next 10 years



#### **FinCEN 105**

Individual must file if he brings in, sends out or receives > \$10K

### **Sanctioned Countries**

- US persons may not transact business with or hold accounts in countries listed by Office of Foreign Assets Control
  - o e.g., Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, & Venezuela
  - Accountants prohibited from providing services to Russia (6/7/22)
- Beware of taxpayers who fail to report taxable income as well as foreign accounts/assets







## Foreign Bank Account Reporting

IMPORTANT: After you have completed this FBAR, you must Sign the Form and Save in order to activate the Ready to File button, which will direct you to a page where you can attach and submit your report. Click Validate to identify missing or incorrectly formatted data at any time during preparation of this report. Click

- Must file FinCEN 114 Foreign Bank Account Report (FBAR) if at any time:
  - had financial interest in or signature authority over
  - foreign financial account(s)
  - With aggregate value > \$10,000
- All financial accounts held outside US, incl. banks, brokerage accounts, insurance cash values, annuities & mutual funds
- Valuation
  - Each account at its <u>highest</u> value at any time during year
  - Converted to US dollars based on exchange rate at year-end
- Mandatory e-file
  - Due 4/15; automatic extension to 10/15

Taxpayers must also report foreign dividend & interest income on Schedule B & check box in Part III

### **Foreign Assets**

 Must file Form 8938 with tax return – in addition to FinCEN 114 – if foreign financial assets exceed certain thresholds

<u>Domestic Taxpayers</u> (US taxpayers lining in US)

Single: Aggregate value of \$50K on Dec. 31st or \$75K any time during yr

Married: Aggregate value of \$100K on Dec. 31st or \$150K at any time during yr

"Foreign" Taxpayers (US taxpayers living abroad)

Single: Aggregate value of \$200K on Dec. 31st or \$300K any time during yr

Married: Aggregate value of \$400K on Dec. 31st or \$600K at any time during yr

- Assets incl. foreign bank accounts, foreign stocks or securities, interest in a foreign entity & gold certificates
- Statute on tax return remains open until Form 8938 with <u>all</u> reportable assets has been filed

### FBAR vs. Form 8938

	FBAR	Form 8938
Enactment	Bank Secrecy Act (1970)	Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (2010)
Regulatory Authority	Dept. of Treasury	IRS
Statute of Limitations	None	3 yrs if filed 6 yrs if omitted income > \$5K
Privacy & Confidentiality	Available to all law enforcement agencies	Protected by IRC § 6103

**.... 3520** 

Annual Return To Report Transactions With Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts

Text Page 24

dy during the current tax year to a foreign trust,

currently outstanding, or (c) You are the executor of con of death, (2) the decedent was treated as the owner

partment of the Treasurgernal Revenue Service

Foreign Gifts & Trusts

- Must file form 3520 if receive gift, bequest or trust distribution from foreign person (reportable event)
  - Gifts & bequests generally not taxable
    - Trust distributions may be taxable
- Due on 4/15 (plus extension) but filed separately from Form
   1040
  - Due date is 6/15 if living abroad
- Rev Proc 2020-17 provides filing exemption for some filers
  - If trust is operated (near) exclusively to provide retirement, medical or education benefits

### Monica Haven, E.A., J.D., LL.M.

(310) 286-9161 PHONE • (310) 557-1626 FAX

mhaven@pobox.com

WEBSITE: www.mhaven.net

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