



Audit Defense

Protecting Your Interests in an Audit

If your company has received a tax assessment as the result of an audit or have received a notice of audit by a state or local tax authority, it is time to consult Weaver's state and local tax professionals. They have the technical knowledge, relationships with officials and experience resolving state and local tax disputes to navigate this process with you. They have proven experience in reducing or eliminating tax assessments resulting from an audit, and can help protect your company's bottom line against inaccurate audit decisions and results.

When you hire Weaver, you will leverage our specialized knowledge of the audit life cycle, sampling techniques, specific exemptions, and the administrative appeals process. We know the ins and outs of an audit from start to finish, and you will get the benefit of both informal and formal knowledge and experience.

Our team can handle all phases of the audit process. We first evaluate the audit issues identified, and then determine whether an appeal is warranted as well as the success probability for each issue. Our goal is to make the audit as easy as possible for our clients while protecting their best interests and minimizing tax liabilities.

Our service offerings range from full service audit management to customized representation services as needed during the audit process. Our services include:

- ▶ Conducting pre-audit reviews before the auditor begins field work
- ▶ Working with state and local tax auditors to address issues and formulate audit plans
- ▶ Identifying potential overpayments to offset potential tax assessments
- ▶ Identifying and analyzing taxpayer documents and data to support the taxpayer's position
- ▶ Researching, documenting and presenting findings using letter rulings, cases, statutes and regulations
- ▶ Navigating the appeals process and administrative hearings
- ▶ Negotiating settlements and payment plans
- ▶ Assisting clients in taking corrective actions to help mitigate future tax errors



Client Success Stories

The Right Tools For Avoiding a Tax Payment

A north Texas oil tool manufacturer hired Weaver after a state audit led to an assessment for over \$250,000 in tax due. Weaver's state and local tax team worked closely with the company to develop an understanding of the business and its manufacturing process. They shared this information with the auditor in tours of the manufacturing facility and follow-up meetings and discussions. As a result of Weaver's efforts, the company received a refund of approximately \$20,000, bringing the total benefit to \$270,000. By receiving a tax refund, the company is less likely to face similar audits in the future because the audit outcome was not financially productive for the state.

A Big Win for This Ad Agency

The state audited a north Texas advertising agency and, after reviewing purchase and sales documentation, issued an assessment of \$623,000 in sales taxes due. The agency hired Weaver to contest the bill. Weaver disagreed with the auditor's findings, gathered documentation to support contentions for assessment reductions, and delivered findings to auditor. Discussions and negotiations between Weaver and the state resulted in the elimination of the assessment with zero sales tax due. The favorable "No Tax Due" wasn't just a victory because of the tax savings. Once Weaver took over the audit, staff at the advertising agency were able to focus on running and growing their business rather than spending valuable time contesting the sales tax audit. The favorable decision also reduced the chances of a future sales tax audit, since this one turned out not to be financially productive for the state.

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