

he rents to others. He now wants to transfer the home to his children. Through a Qualified Personal Residence Trust (QPRT), he can transfer a home to another in a future year, continue to take his notes in the meantime, and receive a gift tax credit for the interest he paid. The estate tax credit also can be used only with a personal residence—not an investment property.

**IRS ruling.** The IRS will allow the special use of the vacation home each year that exceeds the greater of 14 days or 10% of the number of days it is rented during the year, so long as the taxpayer is a personal resident of the vacation home.

■ **IRS's "presumption of correctness" is lost when it makes a mistake.** The IRS valued an estate at \$30 million. The estate's executor valued it at only \$3 million. In Tax Court, the IRS's expert witness lowered its valuation by more than \$30 million. The Court accepted this valuation—which was still triple the estate's—saying the estate had failed to meet its "burden of proof" in refuting the IRS valuation. The estate appealed.

**Court of Appeals:** IRS tax assessments normally are presumed correct—but the presumption is lost when the IRS makes a mistake. Here, the IRS's reduction of its own valuation by \$30 million showed its initial valuation was arbitrary. The decision was thrown out, and the IRS had to assume the burden of disproving the estate's valuation.

*Estate of Paul Mitchell, CA-9, No. 99-20181, 87 AFTR2d 99-1299, 1999-2 CB 299.*

between him and the other partners—so he lost his authority to bind the partnership with a waiver. This authority expired during the period the other partners and they were dissolved.

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Partner under investigation can't bind others. The IRS began a criminal investigation of the managers of a partnership that it suspected of being an illegal tax shelter. It obtained a waiver of the partnership's designated "tax matters partner" (TMP), which gave it extra time to conduct the investigation. Later, it assessed taxes against the partnership's other investors.

**Court:** When the TMP became the

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■ **Husband not liable for wife's distributions** a woman's father distributed large distributions from his husband believed that on the basis of conversations he had with the estate's lawyer and an expert witness, they shouldn't include them on their joint tax return. Later, the couple divorced, and the IRS tried to

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**CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS**  
Employees age 50 and older can make extra contributions to 401(k) and other retirement plans of normal contributors. **IRS:** For 2002, employees are required to report elective pension deferrals on their tax returns. Also: Reporting for contributions will be addressed in the 2002 Instructions 1099-R and 5498. IRS Announcement 2001-54, 2/16/01.

**REPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS**  
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**PAYROLL Hotline**  
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