

2025 AB 1058 Annual Child Support Conference

*Understanding Tax Return Issues*

*September 18, 2025*

*hypothetical problems*

*Presentation by Judge Angela J. Davis and*

*Investigative Auditor Carlos R. Tropea*

**Hypothetical 1**

Martha is self-employed as a tattoo artist and jewelry designer. Her social media postings indicate that she accepts Zelle, Venmo, and cash.

George, Martha's ex, on his FL-150, item # 4, estimates that Martha's monthly income is \$6,000 - \$7,000, and that his estimate is based on: "I've known her for over ten years and she is an award-winning jewelry designer and tattoo artist. I also know that she gives a discount to people who pay her in cash and, when we were together, she would constantly bring home cash payments of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per day, and would brag that she sometimes makes \$10,000 in a month and almost always makes \$6,000 per month. She bought a BMW last year."

Martha's schedule C is attached. What, if any questions do you have for Martha?

SCHEDULE C (Form 1040)

Profit or Loss From Business (Sole Proprietorship)

OMB No. 1545-0074

2024

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Attach to Form 1040, 1040-SR, 1040-SS, 1040-NR, or 1041; partnerships must generally file Form 1065. Go to www.irs.gov/ScheduleC for instructions and the latest information.

Attachment Sequence No. 09

Name of proprietor: Martha Washinton. Social security number (SSN). A Principal business or profession, including product or service (see instructions): Jewelry Designer / Tatoo Artist. B Enter code from instructions. C Business name. If no separate business name, leave blank. Made by Martha. D Employer ID number (EIN) (see instr.). E Business address (including suite or room no.): 12345 Homewood Drive, Apartment 2. City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. F Accounting method: (1) [X] Cash (2) [ ] Accrual (3) [ ] Other (specify). G Did you "materially participate" in the operation of this business during 2024? [X] Yes [ ] No. H If you started or acquired this business during 2024, check here [ ]. I Did you make any payments in 2024 that would require you to file Form(s) 1099? [ ] Yes [ ] No. J If "Yes," did you or will you file required Form(s) 1099? [ ] Yes [ ] No.

Part I Income

Table with 7 rows for income calculation. Line 1: Gross receipts or sales, 24,000. Line 2: Returns and allowances. Line 3: Subtract line 2 from line 1. Line 4: Cost of goods sold (from line 42), 11,000. Line 5: Gross profit. Subtract line 4 from line 3. Line 6: Other income, including federal and state gasoline or fuel tax credit or refund. Line 7: Gross income. Add lines 5 and 6, 13,000.

Part II Expenses. Enter expenses for business use of your home only on line 30.

Table with 32 rows for expense calculation. Lines 8-17: Advertising (2500), Car and truck expenses, Commissions and fees, Contract labor, Depletion, Depreciation and section 179 expense deduction, Employee benefit programs, Insurance, Interest (Mortgage, Other), Legal and professional services (1000). Lines 18-27b: Office expense (2500), Pension and profit-sharing plans, Rent or lease (Vehicles, machinery, and equipment; Other business property), Repairs and maintenance, Supplies, Taxes and licenses, Travel and meals (Travel, Deductible meals), Utilities, Wages, Other expenses (from line 48), Energy efficient commercial bldgs deduction. Line 28: Total expenses before expenses for business use of home, 6000. Line 29: Tentative profit or (loss). Subtract line 28 from line 7. Line 30: Expenses for business use of your home. Line 31: Net profit or (loss). Line 32: If you have a loss, check the box that describes your investment in this activity. 32a [ ] All investment is at risk. 32b [ ] Some investment is not at risk.



**Hypothetical 2**

Alex Ames is a real estate entrepreneur and separated from Betsy Blue for two years. Betsy, on her FL-150, item # 4, estimates Alex's monthly income is \$30,000 and states her estimate is based upon: "Alex has always owned multiple buildings and collects rent from several properties. During ten years of marriage, he purchased a new luxury car every two years, always flew first class, and belonged to several expensive clubs. He also told me all the time that he made more than \$30,000 per month."

Alex represents in his FL-150 that his monthly income is substantially lower and represents that his business suffered a downturn and, as a result, he profits are substantially less, particularly as a result of increased costs in maintaining properties. Alex's schedule C is attached. What questions do you have for Alex?

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Attachment Sequence No. 09

Name of proprietor: Alex Ames. Social security number (SSN). Principal business: Real Estate Investments. Business name: P.O. Box 2345, Los Angeles CA 90012. Accounting method: Cash. Did you materially participate? No. If you started or acquired this business during 2024, check here. Did you make any payments in 2024 that would require you to file Form(s) 1099? No. If "Yes," did you or will you file required Form(s) 1099? No.

Part I Income

Table with 7 rows for income items: 1 Gross receipts or sales (300,000), 2 Returns and allowances, 3 Subtract line 2 from line 1, 4 Cost of goods sold, 5 Gross profit, 6 Other income, 7 Gross income.

Part II Expenses. Enter expenses for business use of your home only on line 30.

Table with 32 rows for expenses: 8 Advertising (25,000), 9 Car and truck expenses (12,000), 10 Commissions and fees, 11 Contract labor, 12 Depletion, 13 Depreciation and section 179 expense deduction, 14 Employee benefit programs, 15 Insurance, 16 Interest, 17 Legal and professional services (40,000), 18 Office expense (24,000), 19 Pension and profit-sharing plans, 20 Rent or lease, 21 Repairs and maintenance (24,758.24), 22 Supplies (13,849), 23 Taxes and licenses, 24 Travel and meals, 25 Utilities, 26 Wages, 27a Other expenses (100,000), 27b Energy efficient commercial bldgs deduction, 28 Total expenses (239,607), 29 Tentative profit or (loss), 30 Expenses for business use of your home, 31 Net profit or (loss), 32 Investment risk.

**Part III Cost of Goods Sold** (see instructions)

33 Method(s) used to value closing inventory: a  Cost b  Lower of cost or market c  Other (attach explanation)

34 Was there any change in determining quantities, costs, or valuations between opening and closing inventory? If "Yes," attach explanation  Yes  No

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include: 35 Inventory at beginning of year, 36 Purchases less cost of items withdrawn for personal use, 37 Cost of labor, 38 Materials and supplies, 39 Other costs, 40 Add lines 35 through 39, 41 Inventory at end of year, 42 Cost of goods sold.

**Part IV Information on Your Vehicle.** Complete this part **only** if you are claiming car or truck expenses on line 9 and are not required to file Form 4562 for this business. See the instructions for line 13 to find out if you must file Form 4562.

43 When did you place your vehicle in service for business purposes? (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

44 Of the total number of miles you drove your vehicle during 2024, enter the number of miles you used your vehicle for:

a Business \_\_\_\_\_ b Commuting (see instructions) \_\_\_\_\_ c Other \_\_\_\_\_

45 Was your vehicle available for personal use during off-duty hours?  Yes  No

46 Do you (or your spouse) have another vehicle available for personal use?  Yes  No

47a Do you have evidence to support your deduction?  Yes  No

b If "Yes," is the evidence written?  Yes  No

**Part V Other Expenses.** List below business expenses not included on lines 8–26, line 27b, or line 30.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Row 1: Professional Services, 100,000. Row 2: 48 Total other expenses, 100,000.

**Hypothetical 3**

Darius Drew tells you that he is unable to provide his tax returns because his accountant of several years maintained an office in Pacific Palisades and all records were lost in the January 2025 fires. Drew tells you he gave all of his books and records to his accountant, and did not keep copies.

Drew tells you that he is self-employed as a handyman, earns about \$2,500 per month, and keeps records “the old fashioned way” in a spiral bound notebook that he gave to his accountant before the fires.

Drew’s FL-150 states that he lives with his current girlfriend, who pays 100% of the rent on their shared apartment, which rents for \$3,000 per month. Drew’s FL-150 indicates that he has two car payments, one for his 2010 Toyota Corolla and another for his 2024 Ford Pick-up truck that he uses for work.

What questions do you have Drew?

**Hypothetical 4**

Same facts as hypothetical 3, but three months later. Drew tells you that he was able to “reconstruct” his earnings from the past year by looking at his bank records. His tax returns report total income of \$24,550 and his schedule C lists only \$200 for purchase of new tools at a business expense.

What questions do you have for Drew?

**Hypothetical 5**

Edwina used to work as an executive software designer for a prominent high-tech company. She is now a self-employed consultant. Edwina’s former partner, Famarz, tells you that during their 10-year relationship, Edwina never filed income tax returns and Edwina in fact belonged to an “anti-taxation” organization in which all members pledged to not file tax returns. In response to your request for tax returns, Edwina provides you with copies of what appear to be IRS tax returns for the forgoing year, reporting total net income of \$75,000. You suspect that the purported IRS document that Edwina gave you is not genuine.

What questions do you have for Edwina and what, if anything, may you do to check the authenticity of the purported tax return provided to you?

**Hypothetical 6**

Fred Flintstone is a W-2 wage earner who has taken several itemized deductions.

Fred's FL-150 indicates "N/A" for real property and further indicates that he pay \$2,000 monthly rent, has approximately \$100 monthly in medical expenses not covered by insurance, and \$800 in monthly payments comprised of student loan, credit card, and car payments.

Fred's Schedule A is attached, along with what he supplied on Form 8328.

What questions do you have for Fred?

**SCHEDULE A  
(Form 1040)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Itemized Deductions**

Attach to Form 1040 or 1040-SR.

Go to [www.irs.gov/ScheduleA](http://www.irs.gov/ScheduleA) for instructions and the latest information.

**Caution:** If you are claiming a net qualified disaster loss on Form 4684, see the instructions for line 16.

OMB No. 1545-0074

**2024**

Attachment  
Sequence No. **07**

Name(s) shown on Form 1040 or 1040-SR

**Fred Flintstone**

Your social security number

<b>Medical and Dental Expenses</b>	<b>Caution:</b> Do not include expenses reimbursed or paid by others.			
	1 Medical and dental expenses (see instructions)	1	\$ 9,350.85	
	2 Enter amount from Form 1040 or 1040-SR, line 11	2	2000	
	3 Multiply line 2 by 7.5% (0.075)	3	1500	
	4 Subtract line 3 from line 1. If line 3 is more than line 1, enter -0-	4	7850.85	
<b>Taxes You Paid</b>	5 State and local taxes.			
	a State and local income taxes or general sales taxes. You may include either income taxes or general sales taxes on line 5a, but not both. If you elect to include general sales taxes instead of income taxes, check this box <input type="checkbox"/>	5a		
	b State and local real estate taxes (see instructions)	5b		
	c State and local personal property taxes	5c		
	d Add lines 5a through 5c	5d		
	e Enter the smaller of line 5d or \$10,000 (\$5,000 if married filing separately)	5e		
	6 Other taxes. List type and amount: _____	6		
7 Add lines 5e and 6	7			
<b>Interest You Paid</b> <small>Caution: Your mortgage interest deduction may be limited. See instructions.</small>	8 Home mortgage interest and points. If you didn't use all of your home mortgage loan(s) to buy, build, or improve your home, see instructions and check this box <input type="checkbox"/>			
	a Home mortgage interest and points reported to you on Form 1098. See instructions if limited	8a	4800	
	b Home mortgage interest not reported to you on Form 1098. See instructions if limited. If paid to the person from whom you bought the home, see instructions and show that person's name, identifying no., and address _____	8b		
	c Points not reported to you on Form 1098. See instructions for special rules	8c		
	d Reserved for future use	8d		
	e Add lines 8a through 8c	8e		
	9 Investment interest. Attach Form 4952 if required. See instructions	9		
	10 Add lines 8e and 9	10	4800	
	<b>Gifts to Charity</b> <small>Caution: If you made a gift and got a benefit for it, see instructions.</small>	11 Gifts by cash or check. If you made any gift of \$250 or more, see instructions	11	20
		12 Other than by cash or check. If you made any gift of \$250 or more, see instructions. You <b>must</b> attach Form 8283 if over \$500	12	2000
13 Carryover from prior year		13		
14 Add lines 11 through 13		14	2020	
<b>Casualty and Theft Losses</b>	15 Casualty and theft loss(es) from a federally declared disaster (other than net qualified disaster losses). Attach Form 4684 and enter the amount from line 18 of that form. See instructions	15		
<b>Other Itemized Deductions</b>	16 Other—from list in instructions. List type and amount: _____	16		
<b>Total Itemized Deductions</b>	17 Add the amounts in the far right column for lines 4 through 16. Also, enter this amount on Form 1040 or 1040-SR, line 12	17		
	18 If you elect to itemize deductions even though they are less than your standard deduction, check this box <input type="checkbox"/>			

**Noncash Charitable Contributions**  
 Attach one or more Forms 8283 to your tax return if you claimed a total deduction  
 of over \$500 for all contributed property.  
 Go to [www.irs.gov/Form8283](http://www.irs.gov/Form8283) for instructions and the latest information.

Name(s) shown on your income tax return **Fred Flintstone** Identifying number

Enter the entity name and identifying number from the tax return where the noncash charitable contribution was originally reported, if different from above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Identifying number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if a family pass-through entity made the noncash charitable contribution. See instructions . . . . .

**Note:** Figure the amount of your contribution deduction before completing this form. See your tax return instructions.

**Section A. Donated Property of \$5,000 or Less and Publicly Traded Securities**—List in this section **only** an item (or a group of similar items) for which you claimed a deduction of \$5,000 or less. Also list publicly traded securities and certain other property even if the deduction is more than \$5,000. If you need more space, attach a statement. See instructions.

1	(a) Name and address of the donee organization	(b) If donated property is a vehicle (see instructions), check the box. Also enter the vehicle identification number (unless Form 1098-C is attached).	(c) Description and condition of donated property (For a vehicle, enter the year, make, model, and mileage. For securities and other property, see instructions.)
A	Holiday Toy Drive - Dinosaur School District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toys (all new) -- \$ 400
B	Holiday Food Drive - Dinosaur Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canned goods - all new -400
C	Holiday Toy Drive - Barney's charity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toys -\$ 400 -new
D	Clothing - Barney's charity	<input type="checkbox"/>	clothing - almost new -- \$ 400

**Note:** If the amount you claimed as a deduction for an item is \$500 or less, you do not have to complete columns (e), (f), and (g).

	(d) Date of the contribution	(e) Date acquired by donor (mo., yr.)	(f) How acquired by donor	(g) Donor's cost or adjusted basis	(h) Fair market value (see instructions)	(i) Method used to determine the fair market value
A						
B						
C						
D						

**Section B. Donated Property Over \$5,000 (Except Publicly Traded Securities, Vehicles, Intellectual Property or Inventory Reportable in Section A)**—Complete this section for one item (or a group of similar items) for which you claimed a deduction of more than \$5,000 per item or group (except contributions reportable in Section A). Provide a separate form for each item donated unless it is part of a group of similar items. A qualified appraisal is required for items reportable in Section B and in certain cases must be attached. See instructions.

**Part I Information on Donated Property**

**2** Check the box that describes the type of property donated. See instructions for definitions.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>a</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Art (contribution of \$20,000 or more)         | <b>d</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Other real estate     | <b>i</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles                                |
| <b>b</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified conservation contribution            | <b>e</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment             | <b>j</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clothing and household items |
| <b>b(1)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Certified historic structure<br>NPS # _____ | <b>f</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Securities            | <b>k</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Digital assets                          |
| <b>c</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Art (contribution of less than \$20,000)       | <b>g</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Collectibles          | <b>l</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other                        |
|  | <b>h</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property |   |

3	(a) Description of donated property (if you need more space, attach a separate statement)	(b) If any tangible personal property or real property was donated, give a brief summary of the overall physical condition of the property at the time of the gift.	(c) Appraised fair market value
A			
B			
C			

	(d) Date acquired by donor (mo., yr.)	(e) How acquired by donor	(f) Donor's cost or adjusted basis	(g) For bargain sales, enter amount received	(h) Qualified conservation contribution relevant basis (see instructions)	(i) Amount claimed as a deduction (see instructions)
A						
B						
C						

Name(s) shown on your income tax return	Identifying number
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**Part II Partial Interests and Restricted Use Property (Other Than Qualified Conservation Contributions)–** Complete lines 4a through 4e if you gave less than an entire interest in a property listed in Section B, Part I. Complete lines 5a through 5c if conditions were placed on a contribution listed in Section B, Part I; also attach the required statement. See instructions.

- 4a** Enter the letter from Section B, Part I that identifies the property for which you gave less than an entire interest \_\_\_\_\_  
If Section B, Part II applies to more than one property, attach a separate statement.
- b** Total amount claimed as a deduction for the property listed in Section B, Part I: **(1)** For this tax year . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
**(2)** For any prior tax years \_\_\_\_\_
- c** Name and address of each organization to which any such contribution was made in a prior year (complete only if different from the donee organization in Section B, Part V, below):  
Name of charitable organization (donee)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (number, street, and room or suite no.) \_\_\_\_\_ City or town, state, and ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_
- d** For tangible property, enter the place where the property is located or kept \_\_\_\_\_
- e** Name of any person, other than the donee organization, having actual possession of the property \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	No
<b>5a</b> Is there a restriction, either temporary or permanent, on the donee's right to use or dispose of the donated property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b> Did you give to anyone (other than the donee organization or another organization participating with the donee organization in cooperative fundraising) the right to the income from the donated property or to the possession of the property, including the right to vote donated securities, to acquire the property by purchase or otherwise, or to designate the person having such income, possession, or right to acquire? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c</b> Is there a restriction limiting the donated property for a particular use? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part III Taxpayer (Donor) Statement–**List each item included in Section B, Part I above that the appraisal identifies as having a value of \$500 or less. See instructions.

I declare that the following item(s) included in Section B, Part I above has to the best of my knowledge and belief an appraised value of not more than \$500 (per item). Enter identifying letter from Section B, Part I and describe the specific item. See instructions.

Signature of taxpayer (donor)	Date
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**Part IV Declaration of Appraiser–**See instructions.

I declare that I am not the donor, the donee, a party to the transaction in which the donor acquired the property, employed by, or related to any of the foregoing persons, or married to any person who is related to any of the foregoing persons. And, if regularly used by the donor, donee, or party to the transaction, I performed the majority of my appraisals during my tax year for other persons.

Also, I declare that I perform appraisals on a regular basis; and that because of my qualifications as described in the appraisal, I am qualified to make appraisals of the type of property being valued. I certify that the appraisal fees were not based on a percentage of the appraised property value. Furthermore, I understand that a false or fraudulent overstatement of the property value as described in the qualified appraisal or this Form 8283 may subject me to the penalty under section 6701(a) (aiding and abetting the understatement of tax liability). I understand that my appraisal will be used in connection with a return or claim for refund. I also understand that, if there is a substantial or gross valuation misstatement of the value of the property claimed on the return or claim for refund that is based on my appraisal, I may be subject to a penalty under section 6695A of the Internal Revenue Code, as well as other applicable penalties. I affirm that I have not been at any time in the three-year period ending on the date of the appraisal barred from presenting evidence or testimony before the Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 330(c).

<b>Sign Here</b>	Appraiser signature	Date
	Appraiser name	Title

Business address (including room or suite no.)	Identifying number
City or town, state, and ZIP code	

**Part V Donee Acknowledgment–**See instructions.

This charitable organization acknowledges that it is a qualified organization under section 170(c) and that it received the donated property as described in Section B, Part I, above on the following date \_\_\_\_\_  
Furthermore, this organization affirms that in the event it sells, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of the property described in Section B, Part I (or any portion thereof) within 3 years after the date of receipt, it will file **Form 8282**, Donee Information Return, with the IRS and give the donor a copy of that form. This acknowledgment does not represent agreement with the claimed fair market value.

Does the organization intend to use the property for an unrelated use? . . . . .  **Yes**  **No**

Name of charitable organization (donee)	Employer identification number	
Address (number, street, and room or suite no.)	City or town, state, and ZIP code	
Authorized signature	Title	Date