

T E N E N B A U M

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## Hot-Button Federal Tax Issues for Nonprofits

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# Nonprofit v. Tax-Exempt Status

- There is a notable difference between a nonprofit organization's "nonprofit" corporate status and its federal "tax-exempt" status; once a "nonprofit" corporation is formed, it does not automatically become federally "tax-exempt" (by default, it would be a taxable nonprofit corporation without IRS tax-exemption recognition)
- Despite the name, "nonprofits" are not limited in the profits they can earn; it is just that nonprofits have no owners/shareholders and all profits must be reinvested in the corporation in furtherance of its nonprofit mission and purposes
- A nonprofit corporation is organized under the laws of one of the 50 states or DC; most of these laws are based on the American Bar Association's Model Nonprofit Corporation Act
- State nonprofit corporation statutes regulate a wide array of governance, operations and activities of nonprofit corporations; they also contain "default" provisions
- A nonprofit corporation's internal governance rules (e.g., Bylaws, policies) must be consistent with the nonprofit corporation statute of the state of incorporation; hierarchy is as follows: state nonprofit corporate statute, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, policies

# Federal Tax-Exempt Status – Overview

- The vast majority of all nonprofit corporations are recognized as exempt from federal corporate income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; this tax-exempt status provides numerous benefits but also imposes some limitations and prohibitions
- Other nonprofit corporations are recognized as exempt from federal corporate income tax under other sections of the Internal Revenue Code (e.g., Sections 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(4))
- Federal tax-exempt status is generally recognized through the filing of an application with the IRS for recognition of such tax-exempt status (e.g., IRS Form 1023 or 1024)
- Tax-exempt entities are required to file some form of the IRS Form 990 each year, and are required to file the IRS Form 990-T (and make quarterly estimated tax payments) if unrelated business income (UBI) is earned
- Recognition of federal tax-exempt status can generally be utilized to confer virtually automatic exemption from state corporate income tax (in the state in which the organization's principal office is located (not the state of incorporation))

# Federal Tax-Exempt Status – Private Inurement and Private Benefit

- The “private inurement” doctrine is applicable to most categories of tax-exempt entities but the “private benefit” doctrine is only applicable to 501(c)(3) entities (and arguably 501(c)(4)s)
- The private inurement doctrine prohibits paying excessive compensation (greater than fair market value) to those with an ability to exercise substantial influence over the organization, such as officers, directors and key employees, and sometimes others such as founders)
- All tax-exempt entities can potentially lose their tax-exempt status for private inurement, but only 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) entities are subject to “intermediate sanctions” (excise taxes) on such excessive compensation – both on the recipients of the compensation and on those who approved it
- The “rebuttable presumption of reasonableness” can significantly help protect against IRS findings of private inurement and the imposition of intermediate sanctions, and should be a best practice for all tax-exempt entities:
  - Compensation should be set in reliance on *appropriate* comparability data;
  - Compensation decisions should be made by *independent* decision-makers, with appropriate recusal by the recipient(s) of such compensation; and
  - This process should be *contemporaneously* documented
- The private benefit doctrine requires that, on balance, the a 501(c)(3) entity must confer more benefits on the public than on private parties, both *quantitatively* and *qualitatively*; only “impermissible” private benefit is prohibited – some private benefit is inherent in many activities and operations of 501(c)(3) organizations

# Federal Tax-Exempt Status – Other Taxes; Subsidiaries and Affiliates

- Exemption from federal corporate income tax does not automatically confer exemption from other forms of federal, state and local taxes (e.g., unrelated business income tax (UBIT), federal payroll taxes, state and local sales/use taxes and property taxes)
- In most states, cities and counties, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status is a prerequisite to state sales/use and property tax exemption but there are usually additional requirements as well
- Tax-exempt organizations are permitted to have taxable and tax-exempt subsidiaries and affiliates, both recognized as separate legal entities for federal income tax purposes (both taxable and tax-exempt) and as “disregarded” entities (e.g., LLCs)
- Subsidiaries and affiliates are used for a variety of purposes, such as being able to engage in activities prohibited or limited by the parent’s tax-exempt status, liability protection, funding opportunities, government grant/contract indirect cost rates, public charity status, joint ventures, to enable multiple owners and facilitate investment and sale, public perception, separate IRS Forms 990, and separate governance structures
- There are limitations and prohibitions on the ability to transfer funds and resources between and among certain tax categories of parents, subsidiaries and affiliates
- Common examples of subsidiaries and (controlled) affiliates include related advocacy arms, related foundations, taxable subsidiaries, chapters, and (single- and multi-member LLCs; there are a variety of mechanisms for exercising direct and indirect control over subsidiaries and affiliates

# Federal Tax Exemption – 501(c)(3)

- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt purposes – educational, scientific, charitable, relieving the burdens of government
- Exemption from federal and state corporate income tax
- Benefits: Contributions generally tax-deductible by donors as charitable contributions (less the value of benefits received in return); charitable bequests also permissible; eligibility for many federal, state and local government and private foundation grants
- No “private inurement”
- No impermissible “private benefit”
- No “substantial” lobbying
- No political campaign activities (e.g., this includes volunteer leaders engaging in such activities while wearing their 501(c)(3) “hat”)
- Taxation of unrelated business income (“UBIT”); same rules as for most categories of tax-exempt organizations; most common form is advertising income
- Often allows for state and local sales/use and property tax exemption; if a 501(c)(3) has a state sales/use tax exemption certificate, it only relates to the payment of sales/use tax on purchases, not to the collection and remittance of sales/use tax on sales, and only applies to purchases in that state (not elsewhere)

# Federal Tax Exemption – 501(c)(6)

- 501(c)(6) tax-exempt purposes – to promote, further and advance the industry or profession represented by the organization; most are membership associations or chambers of commerce
- Exemption from federal and state corporate income tax
- Contributions not tax-deductible as charitable contributions but *usually* will be deductible as business expenses
- No “private inurement” – i.e., no payment of greater-than-fair-market-value compensation to “insiders” (those with an ability to exercise substantial influence over the organization, such as directors, officers and employees), but no intermediate sanctions available to the IRS
- Political campaign activities cannot constitute more than half of the organization’s overall activities – distinguished from lobbying, which has no limitation for 501(c)(6) organizations as long as mission-related
- Taxation of unrelated business income (“UBIT”); OK to earn UBI but cannot be more than “insubstantial”; net income is taxed at 21% federal corporate income tax rate; most common form is advertising income; numerous exceptions to UBIT (e.g., royalties, corporate sponsorships, trade show income, investment income)

# 1950 Congressional Enactment of UBIT Statute

- *C.F. Mueller Company* (1951 Third Circuit Decision) – New York University Law School purchased the C.F. Mueller Company pasta manufacturing company, with all profits from the company dedicated to the Law School and its tax-exempt purposes
- The Third Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the U.S. Tax Court’s decision that had held that the Law School was no longer organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes, relying on the then-“use-of-funds” test, thereby upholding the Law School’s position and its tax-exempt status
- In 1950, concerned about unfair competition against taxable entities, Congress enacted the UBIT statute, eliminating the use-of-funds test and imposing today’s current UBIT regime, effective 1/1/51; with a few exceptions, the statute has been largely unchanged since then



# IRS Definition of Unrelated Trade or Business

The term 'unrelated trade or business' means, in the case of any organization subject to the tax imposed by section 511, any trade or business the conduct of **which is not substantially related** (aside from the need of such organization for income or funds or the use it makes of the profits derived) **to the exercise or performance by such organization of its charitable, educational, or other purpose or function constituting the basis for its exemption under section 501...**

– Internal Revenue Code Section 513

# What Is Unrelated Business Income?

- Basics of federal tax exemption
- What is unrelated business income (UBI)?
  - Trade or business;
  - Regularly carried on; *and*
  - Not substantially related to the organization's tax-exempt purposes
- *All* three prongs must be satisfied for UBI to exist; it is a “facts-and-circumstances” test

# What Is Unrelated Business Income? (cont.)

- More than “insubstantial” total UBI can jeopardize an organization’s overall tax-exempt status, but alternatives such as taxable subsidiaries are available
- Even if the three prongs of the UBIT test are satisfied, there are numerous specific exceptions from UBI that may apply
- Don’t let the tax laws be the tail that wags the dog – if it makes more economic and business sense for your organization to earn UBI (and more revenue overall) instead of limiting your activities to keep the revenue tax-free, then do it; just be smart about utilizing offsetting directly connected expenses to minimize tax liability and keep an eye on overall UBI levels to protect the organization’s tax-exempt status

# Trade or Business?

- Profit motive – but actual profit doesn't matter (except with respect to recurring losses year after year, which can be problematic)
- Does the activity resemble those conducted by taxable commercial entities? (Commerciality Doctrine)

# Regularly Carried On

- Principal factors to analyze: (i) *Frequency* and *continuity* with which the activity is conducted; and (ii) *Manner* in which the activity is pursued (especially as compared to comparable commercial activities of taxable entities)
- *National Collegiate Athletic Association v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*
  - Advertising for program booklets for tournament over three weekends not frequent enough, although advertising sales took place over several months
- Compare to *Veterans of Foreign Wars, Michigan v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*
  - Selling Christmas cards was unrelated because it was an intermittent business/seasonal business and the seasonal participation was regularly carried on

# Not Substantially Related to Tax-Exempt Purposes

- The need for income is not enough, and how the income is used is irrelevant
- The activity must contribute importantly to the accomplishment of one of the nonprofit's tax-exempt purposes
- IRS ruling involved a wildlife conservation 501(c)(3) organization that turned an otherwise-unrelated business activity in a “related” one by accompanying the sale of office desk accessories that were imprinted with pictures of endangered species with literature about the endangered species and information about what you can do to help protect the species and support the organization.

# Is the Income Taxable?

- Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT)
  - It is a trade or business;
  - It is regularly carried on; *and*
  - It is not substantially related to furthering the tax-exempt purposes of the organization
- Income that Is Usually Treated as Unrelated Business Income (UBI)
  - Advertising income (includes ads in periodicals and moving banner advertisements on websites)(nonprofits' programs can be segregated into related and unrelated components for taxation purposes, with periodical subscription sales usually being related and advertising in periodicals almost always being unrelated)(special IRS regulations apply to calculating membership associations' UBIT from periodical advertising)(theoretical advertising exception from UBIT if all ads are strictly tied to all editorial content: *U.S. v. American College of Physicians* (U.S. Supreme Court, 1986))
  - Rental income received from debt-financed property
  - Payments from certain "controlled" entities (e.g., rents or royalties from majority-owned or -controlled subsidiaries)

# Is the Income Taxable?

- Income that is *specifically* excluded from UBI:
  - Qualified corporate sponsorship income
  - Royalty income
  - Qualified convention and trade show income (open question presently about how/whether *virtual-only* trade shows qualify)
  - Interest, dividends, annuities, and certain capital gains
  - Certain non-debt-financed rental income from real property
  - Volunteer labor (85% or more conducted by unpaid volunteers)
  - Sale of donated goods
  - Certain research income
  - Certain bingo games
  - Renting mailing list to another charitable organization
- **NOTE:** (i) there is a \$1,000 corporate income tax deduction for UBIT; (ii) UBI is taxed at the flat corporate income tax rate of 21%; (iii) there is a tax deduction against UBI for directly connected expenses incurred to generate the UBI; (iv) net operating losses (NOLs) are generally permitted unless recurring for a number of years, which suggests no profit motive; (v) you can no longer offset losses from one unrelated business activity against gains from another unrelated business activity (profits and losses are determined per activity); and (vi) quarterly estimated tax payments must be made at the federal and state levels for UBIT



# UBIT Exceptions: Qualified Corporate Sponsorship Income

# Corporate Partnerships: Maximizing Income

- Qualified Corporate Sponsorship Payments
  - Safe Harbor: There is no arrangement or expectation that the payor will receive a substantial return benefit (valued at 2% or less of the sponsorship payment)
    - Other than the use or acknowledgment of the name or logo (or product lines) of the payor's trade or business in connection with the nonprofit's activities
    - Applicable to a broad range of temporary and permanent activities (including websites), *excluding*:
      - Most trade show and convention activities (covered by another UBI exception)
      - Advertisements or acknowledgment in periodicals (e.g., magazines, newsletters)(but mere acknowledgements in periodicals may not trigger UBI)
      - Contingent payments

# Illustration

- JST Corporation makes \$5,000 gift to the Philanthropy Foundation (2% = \$100)
  - Example #1 – \$60 return benefit – Safe harbor
    - \$20 educational event tickets
    - \$30 advertising in event program
    - \$10 board dinner
  - Example #2 – \$150 return benefit – No safe harbor (but not necessarily UBI)
    - \$50 licensing rights (not taxed, passive royalty)
    - \$50 educational event tickets (not taxed, “related” income)
    - \$50 advertising in event program (taxed at market rates)

**NOTE:** The tax treatment of a donation or payment from a sponsor to a tax-exempt organization has no bearing on the tax deductibility of the donation or payment to the sponsor as a charitable donation or business expense; that analysis is separate and distinct, and is affected by issues such as donative intent, the value of benefits received in return, the tax status of the tax-exempt organization, and the connection to the payor’s business

# Analyzing Benefits

1. Acknowledgment or Advertising?
2. Eligible for the Safe Harbor?
3. Determine the Value of “Eligible” Benefits
4. Conduct the Standard Three-Prong UBIT Analysis on Whatever Is Not Covered by the Safe Harbor (Not Qualifying for the Corporate Sponsorship Safe Harbor Does Not Necessarily = UBI)

# 1. Acknowledgement or Advertising?

- **Acknowledgment**

- Name or logo
- Description of services or product lines, as long as use is not *qualitative or comparative*:
  - But slogans which are an established part of identity are permissible
- Contact information, including list of sponsor's address, telephone number, email address, and/or web address, including a hyperlink from the nonprofit's website to the sponsor's website (main landing page – not to product or service purchase page) (moving banner likely inconsistent with acknowledgment)
- Product displays, visual depictions, product samples (whether products are sold or are given out for free)

- **Advertisement**

- Qualitative or comparative language, price information, indications of savings or value, endorsements, inducement to purchase, sell or use

## 2. Eligible for Safe Harbor?

Safe harbor does not apply to (apply standard UBIT analysis):

- Over 2% – Sponsorship payments where return benefit is over 2%; in such cases, only the portion (if any) of the payment that exceeds the FMV of the return benefit (at the time the arrangement is entered into or renewed) will be considered a qualified sponsorship payment
- Contingent Payments – Where the level of payment depends on attendance numbers, broadcast ratings, web hits, social media likes, etc. (but not if contingent on the event occurring at all)
- Exclusive *Provider* Arrangements – e.g., right to be the exclusive provider of soft drinks at an event (Reg. §1.513-4(f), Ex 6) – but exclusive *sponsor* arrangements are consistent with the safe harbor

# Eligible for Safe Harbor? (cont.)

- Convention or Trade Show
  - Exhibit booths, tickets to trade show, acknowledgement at trade show, etc.
    - But generally covered by the convention and trade show UBI exception
- Advertising or Acknowledgement in Periodicals
  - The safe harbor does not apply to periodicals (print or electronic)
  - Illustration: A textbook publisher makes a large payment to have its name displayed on the inside cover of the nonprofit's monthly magazine (Reg. §1.513-4(f), Ex. 10)
    - Because the magazine is a periodical, the safe harbor does *not* apply
    - Mere *acknowledgement* in an event program guide is likely covered by the safe harbor, but *advertising* in an event program guide is not (Reg. §1.513-4(f), Ex. 8)
- Mere Acknowledgements in Periodicals (Thanking/Acknowledging Sponsors/Donors) Likely Still Tax-Exempt Even Though Not Covered by the Safe Harbor
  - Due to not satisfying the three-prong UBIT analysis

# 3. Determine Value of Eligible Benefits

- **Valuation Period**

- Valuation is applied to each tax year of a multi-year agreement – impacts pay up-front agreements

- **Valuation Date**

- If a contract specifies the (good faith and reasonable) “market value,” then the valuation date is the date of the contract:
  - Resets if there is a material change, including renewal or extension
- If no contract, then the date that a benefit is provided



# Essentials for Corporate Sponsorship Contracts

- Specify exact form of acknowledgment
- Specify all return benefits
- Specify value of taxable benefits
- Break out the various components separately
- Have right to approve any copy relating to sponsorship, or any use of tax-exempt's name/logo (and include a specific, limited license of the tax-exempt's name/logo)
- Specify the specific site to which hyperlinks will link

# UBIT Exceptions: Royalty Income

# Specific Exclusions – Royalties

- Passive royalty income is excluded from UBIT
- What is a royalty?
  - *Sierra Club v. Commissioner*: “Payments received for the right to use intangible property rights and that such definition does not include payments for services”
- Components:
  - Name, trademark/service mark, and mailing list
  - Third-party product
    - E.g., affinity card, endorsed product or service
    - Outsourcing of magazines/journals often not eligible for royalty treatment
  - No active promotion (or quantify value and pay tax)
    - Announcement email/letter is OK
    - Quality control measures are OK and highly recommended (especially for brand and trademark protection)

# Royalties – License of Name and/or Logo

- General rule: The less an organization does, the more likely income is to be characterized as royalty income
- Evidence of royalty relationship
  - Payment relates to use of a valuable right
  - An organization's activities are generally limited to those necessary to protect its reputation:
    - Review use of name and logo for quality and style
    - Limit the use of name and logo to approved circumstances
- Evidence of other (usually service) relationship
  - Marketing services (promoting the product/service) and/or administrative services (helping to administer the program)
  - Significant activities or rights, such as approval of editorial content and preparing articles in a periodical
  - Existence of a *quid pro quo* transaction

# Royalties – License of Name and/or Logo (cont.)

- The IRS has taken a strict position with royalty income, but lost most of the litigation that transpired about 25 years ago, and the IRS' position has softened a bit over the years
- Dual-purpose relationships:
  - If the service component is minimum, this is likely not an issue and can all be treated as tax-free royalties
  - If the service component is significant:
    - The IRS will likely determine that none of the income is royalty income
    - Courts have looked to the entire relationship to determine what the nonprofit is actually getting paid for on a fair market basis (e.g., what is the value of the exclusive name/logo license (endorsement) versus the value of the services being provided?)

# Royalties – License of Name and/or Logo (cont.)

- Dual-purpose relationships best practices:
  - The IRS would prefer two separate agreements; this is usually not necessary
  - Clearly identify and bifurcate the royalty and service components and payments in the agreement
  - Be reasonable
  - Do not title the agreement as a “Service Agreement”

# Royalties – Mailing List Rental

- Income from rental of mailing list to other 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations is expressly excluded from UBI under the federal tax code
- Rental of mailing list to taxable entities is excluded from UBI as royalties
- Courts have looked to whether the agreement requires “significant” activities
  - Usually UBI issues arise as the result of promotional or endorsement activities
- Are your organization’s mailing lists marketed to specific organizations or entities or sorted to meet the particular needs of a taxable entity?
  - This could generate UBI issues

# Royalties – Mailing List Rental (cont.)

- Dual-purpose relationships best practices:
  - IRS would prefer two separate agreements, usually not necessary
  - Clearly identify and bifurcate the royalty and service components and payments in the agreement
  - Be reasonable
  - Do not title the agreement as a “Service Agreement”



# Royalties – Affinity Credit Cards

- Courts have ruled that payments received by organizations through affinity credit card relationships are for valuable intangible property – the organization’s name, logo and mailing lists
- The issue is whether an organization is receiving a payment for the use of and the goodwill associated with the organization’s name and logos, or a payment for promotional and mailing list management services – or both; if both, there needs to be a reasonable, fair market allocation between the two
- Courts have held that the amount of services provided *does* matter

# Cause-Related Marketing

# Cause-Related Marketing

- Attributes
  - A commercial entity uses your nonprofit's name or logo in its advertisements, with the promise to pay a portion of purchase price to your nonprofit (generally only involves charities and not other types of nonprofit organizations)
  - Passive
  - Lack of control
- Rewards
  - Increased donations to your nonprofit
  - Increased awareness of and exposure for your nonprofit
- Risks
  - No control over where advertisements are displayed
  - Possible state reporting requirements
  - Problems with having the underlying product associated with your nonprofit

# Commercial Co-Ventures

- Commercial Co-Venture (CCV)
  - An arrangement between a charity and a commercial entity under which the commercial entity advertises in a sales or marketing campaign that the purchase or use of its goods or services will benefit a charity or charitable purpose
- “When you purchase our new iPhone app, 50% of the purchase price will go to the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts!”
- Frequently referred to as “charitable sales promotions” or “cause-related marketing”
- Excellent fundraising and marketing mechanism for both the charity and commercial co-venturer

# Regulation of Commercial Co-Ventures

## *State Law*

- More than 40 states have laws that regulate various methods of fundraising, including charitable solicitations and CCVs
- Approximately 26 states have laws that specifically regulate CCVs
- Purpose of laws – consumer protection
- Example: General Mills/Yoplait “Save Lives to Save Lives” campaign in late 1990s to benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation
  - Georgia Secretary of State concluded that the disclosures regarding the donation amount were misleading to consumers

# Regulation of Commercial Co-Ventures

## *State Law (cont.)*

- Statutory language and requirements vary by state always check the language of the statute
- New York State’s definition of “commercial co-venture” is fairly standard:
  - “Any person who for profit is regularly and primarily engaged in trade or commerce other than in connection with the raising of funds or any other thing of value for a charitable organization and who advertises that the purchase of goods, services, entertainment, or any other things of value will benefit a charitable organization.” [NY Exec. Laws § 171-a]
- Compared to broader Massachusetts statute:
  - “[A]ny person who for profit or other commercial consideration conducts, produces, underwrites, arranges or sponsors a performance, event, or sale to the public of any good or service which is advertised in conjunction with the name of any charitable organization or as benefitting to any extent any charitable purpose.” [MA Gen. Laws Ch. 68, § 18, 22-28]

# Regulation of Commercial Co-Ventures

## *State Law (cont.)*

- State law requirements, generally:
  - ❑ Registration
  - ❑ Bonding
  - ❑ Written Contract
  - ❑ Advertising Disclosures
  - ❑ Accounting and Recordkeeping
- Registration: Several states require advance registration or notification by co-venturer; they include AL, CA, HI, IL, MA, MS, and SC
- Bonding: AL and MA require the co-venturer to obtain a surety bond

# Regulation of Commercial Co-Ventures

## *State Law (cont.)*

- Written Contract
  - Many states (including NY and NJ) require a written contract, which must be filed with the state by co-venturer
  - A handful of states (including AR, CT, NH, and UT) require the charity to file a copy of the contract. Some states require specific terms to be included in the contract, including:
    - Identification of charity or charitable purposes benefited
    - Description of sales promotion, including goods/services and estimated number to be sold
    - Description of offer to be made to the public regarding amount to be given to charity [NY Exec. Law § 170-b(2)]
    - Terms relating to charity's right to cancel [NY Exec. Law § 174-a]
    - Charity authorization, e.g., MA requires signature of two officers [MA Laws Ch. 68 § 22(a)]
    - Location, start and end dates of sales promotion
  - Both parties must keep a copy of the contract



# Regulation of Commercial Co-Ventures

## *State Law (cont.)*

- Advertising Disclosures
  - Ads must disclose anticipated portion of the sales price, percentage of the gross proceeds, dollar amount per purchase, or other consideration or benefit received by the charity [NY Exec. Law § 174-c]
  - Some states require disclosure on a per-unit basis
- Accounting and Recordkeeping
  - Most states require commercial co-venturers to keep records, provide the charity (and sometimes the state) with a final accounting of the campaign, and keep that accounting for a specified number of years
  - California: Funds raised must be given to charity every 90 days during campaign [CA Government Code § 12599.2]

# Regulation of Commercial Co-Ventures

## *State Law (cont.)*

- Co-venturer obligations: States generally impose requirements on the commercial co-venturer only
- Charity obligations
  - A few states impose certain CCV requirements (filing of notice, contract and accounting) on the charity
  - Charities must be registered (and current in their annual reporting) to solicit funds under charitable solicitation laws in states where sales promotion will run
- Requirements vary by state. Check the statutes.

# Regulation of Commercial Co-Ventures

## *BBB Standards*

- BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability – [www.bbb.org/us/charity-standards](http://www.bbb.org/us/charity-standards)
- BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standard 19 (often effectively enforced by state charity regulators):
  - Should clearly disclose how charity benefits from sales promotion
  - Ensure that sales promotions disclose the following at the point of solicitation:
    - The actual or anticipated portion of the purchase price that will benefit the charity (e.g., 5 cents will be contributed to ABC charity for every XYZ company product sold)
    - The duration of the campaign (e.g., the month of October)
    - Any maximum or guaranteed minimum contribution amount (e.g., up to a maximum of \$200,000)

# Federal Tax Law and Maximizing CCV Income

- If a charity plays a wholly passive role, the funds it receives from the CCV should count as contribution income (and able to be counted toward the “public support” test), as royalty income (if so structured), or as a qualified corporate sponsorship (see below)
- If a charity has a more active role (promotion-wise or otherwise) and/or provides any “return benefit” to the co-venturer (e.g., including the co-venturer’s name and logo on the charity’s website in connection with the promotion), then some UBI may be triggered
- In that case, it may make sense to structure it as a qualified corporate sponsorship arrangement

# How to Approach Commercial Co-Ventures

- **Identify CCVs.** Ensure staff is able to recognize a charitable sales promotion and informed about CCV regulations. Consider developing a checklist of issues to address in selecting and working with commercial entities.
- **Advance Planning.** Pick co-venturer wisely – you want them to be established organized, and serious about compliance. Give yourself and co-venturer plenty of time to meet state requirements – particularly disclosures on ad copy – well *in advance* of the promotion's start date.
- **Written Contract.** Required by most regulating states, the written contract should contain any required terms and standard legal protections and should be signed by charity officer (or two).
- **Monitor Co-Venturer for Compliance.** No one wants a state investigation. It is in the charity's best interests to encourage the co-venturer to meet state requirements and to enforce terms of the CCV contract, both before and after the start of the promotion.

# Questions?

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