In the Matter of the Petition

of

WILLIAM L. and ELEANOR HARMONAY

For a Redetermination of a Deficiency or a Refund of Personal Income Taxes under Article(s) 22 of the Tax Law for the Year(x) 1963.

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING OF NOTICE OF DECISION BY (CERTIFIED) MAIL

State of New York County of Albany

and by depositing same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a (post office or official depository) under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office Department within the State of New York.

That deponent further says that the said addressee is the (XHRDESENKEDINE EX) petitioner herein and that the address set forth on said wrapper is the last known address of the (XHRDESENKEDINEXOSKX ) petitioner.

Sworn to before me this

3rd day of June

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In the Matter of the Petition

of

WILLIAM L. and ELEANOR HARMONAY.

For a Redetermination of a Deficiency or a Refund of Personal Income:

Taxes under Article (5) 22 of the Tax Law for the Year (5) 1963.

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING OF NOTICE OF DECISION BY (CERTIFIED) MAIL

State of New York County of Albany

and by depositing same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a (post office or official depository) under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office Department within the State of New York.

Sworn to before me this

29th day of

May

1975

In the Matter of the Petition

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WILLIAM L. and ELEANOR HARMONAY

For a Redetermination of a Deficiency or a Refund of Personal Income

Taxes under Article (x) 22 of the

Tax Law for the Year (x) 1963.

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING OF NOTICE OF DECISION BY (CERTIFIED) MAIL

State of New York County of Albany

JANET MACK

, being duly sworn, deposes and says that

she is an employee of the Department of Taxation and Finance, over 18 years of age, and that on the 29th day of May , 1975, she served the within Notice of Decision (REXDETERMINATION) by (certified) mail upon RICHARD S. SCOLARO, ESQ.

(representative of) the petitioner in the within

proceeding, by enclosing a true copy thereof in a securely sealed postpaid

wrapper addressed as follows:

Richard S. Scolaro, Esq. Axenfeld, Webb, Marshall, Bersani & Scolaro

ant mach

500 Building

500 South Salina Street

Syracuse, New York 13202

and by depositing same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a (post office or official depository) under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office Department within the State of New York.

That deponent further says that the said addressee is the (representative of) petitioner herein and that the address set forth on said wrapper is the last known address of the (representative of the) petitioner.

Sworn to before me this

29th day of

May 6.197

AD-1.30 (1/74)



STATE TAX COMMISSION

A. BRUCE MANLEY

MILTON KOERNER

# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE

STATE TAX COMMISSION
HEARING UNIT

EDWARD ROOK SECRETARY TO

-A

COMMISSION

BUILDING 9, ROOM 214-A STATE CAMPUS ALBANY, N.Y. 12227

AREA CODE 518

ADDRESS YOUR REPLY TO

MR. WRIGHT 457-2655 MR. LEISNER 457-2657 MR. COBURN 457-2896

.

DATED:

Albany, New York May 29, 1975

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Harmonay 567 Yonkers Avenue Yonkers, New York

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Marmonay:

Please take notice of the **DECISION**of the State Tax Commission enclosed herewith.

Please take further notice that pursuant to Section(x) 690 of the Tax Law, any proceeding in court to review an adverse decision must be commenced within 4 months from the date of this notice.

Any inquiries concerning the computation of tax due or refund allowed in accordance with this decision or concerning any other matter relative hereto may be addressed to the undersigned. These will be referred to the proper party for reply.

Very truly yours,

L. Robert Leisner HEARING OFFICER

Enc.

c: Petitioner's Representative
Law Bureau

#### STATE OF NEW YORK

#### STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition

of

WILLIAM L. and ELEANOR HARMONAY : DECISION

for Redetermination of a Deficiency or for Refund of Personal Income Taxes under Article 22 of the Tax Law for the Year 1963.

:

Petitioners, William L. and Eleanor Harmonay, 567 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, New York, petitioned for a redetermination of deficiencies in personal income taxes under Article 22 of the Tax Law for the year 1963.

A formal hearing was held at the offices of the State Tax

Commission, State Office Building, 333 East Washington Street,

Syracuse, New York, on Friday, July 26, 1974, before L. Robert

Leisner, Hearing Officer. The taxpayers were represented by

Richard S. Scolaro, Esq., and the Income Tax Bureau was represented

by Saul Heckelman, Esq. (Alexander Weiss, Esq., of counsel).

## ISSUE

Were legal expenses on a condemnation award deductible in part against interest income where part of the legal expense related to tax advice about the award?

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Petitioners, William L. and Eleanor Harmonay, timely filed New York State income tax returns for the year 1963.
- 2. A Notice of Determination of deficiencies in personal income taxes for the year 1963 was issued on March 27, 1967, against the taxpayers under File No. 3-6000531.
- 3. The taxpayers petitioned for redetermination of the deficiencies.
- 4. The taxpayers retained a law firm under a general retainer to represent them on a condemnation proceeding. The award was for \$321,847.00. The interest was \$54,311.01.
- 5. The Income Tax Bureau asserted that all of the interest was taxable as ordinary income.
- 6. The legal fees on the award was \$49,369.00 and \$3,000.00 on the appeal.
- 7. The taxpayer contended that the general retainer for the condemnation also covered not only recovery of the award but also rendering tax advice on the award, and to that extent the legal fee was deductible against ordinary income.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The general retainer for the condemnation was to recover damages. The legal tax advice concerning the award was an incident or adjunct to the service. The legal expenses for the condemnation were based on the capital award and should be charged against it and not against ordinary income.

The interest on the award was taxable as ordinary income.

The taxpayers' petition is denied. The determination of the deficiency is sustained.

Pursuant to the Tax Law, interest shall be added to the total amount due until paid.

DATED: Albany, New York May 29, 1975

STATE TAX COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

AD 32 (8-74) BOM Department of Taxation and Finance STATE OF NEW YORK STATE CAMPUS

ALBANY, N. Y. 12227

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Harmonay

567 Yonkers/Avenue Yonkers, New York

CERTIFIED

No. 201558