

COST 2018 INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SALES & USE TAX SCHOOL

May 20 – 24, 2018

Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center

Atlanta, Georgia

Preliminary Agenda – 4/10/18

Sunday, May 20, 2018	
6:00 – 8:00	Registration, Dinner and Evening Fun
7:30 – 8:00	Tablet Orientation
Monday, May 21, 2018	
7:30 – 7:45	Tablet Orientation: For those who weren't able to make Sunday's tablet orientation, now is the time.
7:45 – 8:30	Welcome and Introduction <i>(joint session with Income Tax School)</i> Douglas Lindholm, COST, Washington, DC Charles Drury, COST, Washington, DC
8:30 – 12:00 8:30 – 10:15 Lecture 10:15 – 10:30 Break 10:30 – 12:00 Facilitated Breakout	Constitutional Issues - Up to date information on limitations of a liability to impose sales and use taxes, including an in depth discussion of the Due Process and Commerce Causes along with addressing other constitutional provisions such as Freedom of Speech, Establish Clause, Full Faith and Credit, Supremacy Clause and Tonnage Clause. Recent affiliated nexus and reporting laws enacted by the states are also covered. Students will test and build on the key concepts learned in this class by breaking into small groups to discuss a case study. Instructors: Karen Currie, EY*, Dallas, TX Fred Nicely, COST, Washington, DC
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch/Networking
1:30 – 5:00 1:30 – 3:15 Lecture 3:15 – 3:30 Break 3:30 – 4:00 Lecture 4:00 – 5:00 Facilitated Breakout	Situs: Who Can Tax the Transaction - One significant area of confusion for both sellers and purchasers is making sure the tax is collected and remitted to the correct taxing jurisdiction. This session will cover the similarities and differences on how the states situs a sale (including subsequent uses) for sales and use tax purposes. Students will test and build on the key concepts learned in this class by breakout into small groups to discuss a case study. Instructors: Jordan Goodman, Horwood Marcus & Berk*, Chicago, IL Marilyn Wethekam, Horwood Marcus & Berk*, Chicago, IL
6:15 – 8:45	Vegas Night with COST at GA Tech Hotel
Tuesday, May 22, 2018	
8:30 – 11:15 8:30 – 10:00 Lecture 10:00 – 10:15 Break 10:15 – 11:15 Lecture	Audit Strategies for Statistical Sampling - While some states still use block sampling, the trend is for more states to use random statistical sampling. This session does not require you to be a statistician, but it will give you insights and strategies to use to defend your company against auditors using a sampling methodology that does not comply with a state's law or with legitimate statistical sampling techniques. Instructors; Carolynn Kranz, Industry Sales Tax Solutions*, Washington, DC Roger Pfaffenberger, Ryan*, Dallas, TX
11:15 – 11:45	Streamlined Sales Tax – Changing the Sales Tax Landscape - The Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project is more than a decade old. Whether you are experienced with the scope of the project or a novice, you will learn more about the issues this project is trying to address along with a discussion of the federal legislation pending before Congress to grant states remote seller collection authority. Instructors: Fred Nicely, COST, Washington, DC Patrick Reynolds, COST, Washington, DC
11:45 – 12:15	Emerging Issues Associated with Unclaimed Property <i>(joint session with Income Tax School)</i> - States are getting more aggressive in the unclaimed property area. They are shortening their dormancy periods, asserting claims to new types of obligations, and hiring contingent fee auditors. Some states use

	<p>unclaimed property as a source of revenue rather than acting as trustee for the true owners. While unclaimed property is not a tax, a company's tax function frequently owns the audit. Just when you thought dealing with a state income or transactional tax audit can be burdensome, wait until you wrestle with an unclaimed property audit with no statute of limitations or uniform procedures, limited protest rights, and very little guidance. This session will provide an overview of the states' unclaimed property practices and cover recent unclaimed property legislation and litigation. It will bring you up to date on the latest unclaimed property issues.</p> <p>Instructor: Michael Giovannini, Alston & Bird*, Charlotte, NC</p>
12:15– 1:15	Lunch/Networking
1:15 – 5:30 1:15 – 3:00 Lecture 3:00 – 3:15 Break 3:15 – 4:15 Lecture 4:15 – 5:30 Facilitated Breakout	<p>Acquisitions, Mergers and Divestitures - It may not be your favorite project to work on, but failing to conduct a due diligence review when your company faces an acquisition, merger or other significant type of business restructuring can be costly to both you and your company. You will spend a productive afternoon learning the do's and don'ts of conducting a due diligence review, verifying that documents are drafted correctly, mitigating successor liability issues and considering issues after the transaction. Students will test and build on the key concepts learned in this class by breakout into small groups to discuss a case study.</p> <p>Instructors: William Backstrom, Jones Walker*, New Orleans, LA Michael Jacobs, Reed Smith*, Philadelphia, PA Andy Yates, Alston & Bird*, Atlanta, GA</p>
6:15 – 10:00	Optional Evening Outing – Bus to Lenox Mall/Atlantic Station
Wednesday, May 23, 2018	
8:00 – 9:15	<p>Comparison of the Imposition of Sales Taxes & Gross Receipts Taxes - They seem similar, but sales taxes and gross receipts taxes have unique features that you need to know about. This session covers the differences between the two taxes along with providing you planning opportunities and predicting future trends with these taxes.</p> <p>Instructors: Stephen Blazick, Reed Smith*, Philadelphia, PA Randy Holloway, Grant Thornton*, Atlanta, GA</p>
9:15 – 10:00	<p>Transaction Tax Accounting Practices - Due Diligence/Reserve Issues Under FAS 141R & Litigation Reserves Under ASC 450(FAS 5) - Your business not only has to comply with the states' tax laws but it also needs to comply with the federal financial reporting requirements. This presentation will update you on the due diligence and the tax reserve issues you need to know about that impact transactional taxes.</p> <p>Instructor: Scott Jackson, KPMG*, Atlanta, GA</p>
10:00 – 10:15	Refreshment Break/Networking
10:15 – 11:45	<p>Taxing Bits and Bytes – Taxation of Electronic Information Services, Digital Products, and Access to Software (including Outsourcing to the Cloud) - You are not alone if you feel like you are in the fog about the states' taxation of electronic information, digital goods and accessing software without physically downloading that software. This session will not only give you a baseline and explain what those terms mean, it will also give you some comfort (or discomfort) to learn the states are having the same problems. With changes to the tax law moving slower than technology, this session addresses the issues the states are having when they attempt to tax the "cloud." The presenters will also provide you with planning opportunities.</p> <p>Instructors: Harley Duncan, KPMG*, Washington, DC Carolynn Kranz, Industry Sales Tax Solutions*, Washington, DC James Taylor, Alliance Data, Columbus, OH</p>
11:45 – 12:45	Lunch/Networking

12:45 – 2:15	Retailing Sales & Use Tax Issues - Whether you work for a retailer or not, this session will give you pointers to make sure you collect (or pay) the correct amount of tax and what to do when something goes wrong. Instructors: David Naney, Ryan*, Los Angeles, CA Robert Overstreet, Ryan*, Boise, ID
2:15 – 4:00 2:15 – 3:00 Lecture 3:00 – 3:15 Break 3:15 – 4:00 Lecture	Services Sales & Use Tax Issues - The states want more revenue but they do not want to face the wrath of the voters by increasing the state and/or local sales and use tax rates. Increasingly, the states have augmented the revenue base by taxing more services. Often, the burden of the expanded tax base falls squarely on the business sector. This session will help you sort out the different sales and use taxes imposed on services that impact business and assist you in minimizing your company's exposure to these taxes. Instructors: Stanley Kaminski, Duane Morris*, Chicago, IL Michael Wynne, Jones Day*, Chicago, IL
4:00 – 5:30	Manufacturing/Construction Sales & Use Tax Issues - Knowing that it is hard to get a refund for overpaying tax, this presentation will guide you through the differences in the states' laws in how they determine what constitutes "manufacturing" and what is taxable in a "construction contract." Instructors: Jonathan Feldman, Eversheds Sutherland (US)*, Atlanta, GA TBD, Baker & McKenzie*
7:00 – 9:00	Optional Evening Activity – Trivia/Game night with COST at GA Tech Hotel
Thursday, May 24, 2018	
9:00 – 10:00	VAT – Best Practices to Address It and Does the VAT Have a Future in the U.S. (<i>joint session with Income Tax School</i>) - A Value Added Tax (VAT) is imposed by many countries and has been widely discussed as a viable option to make the US tax system more competitive internationally. This session will discuss how a VAT works, what typical issues arise in its administration, and what a national US VAT might mean to state and local taxes. Instructors: Harley Duncan, KPMG*, Washington, DC Karl Frieden, COST, Washington, DC
10:00 – 10:45	Tax Legislative Activism (<i>joint session with Income Tax School</i>) - Many taxpayers complement their traditional tax planning and compliance functions by incorporating legislative advocacy. This session will discuss how tax legislative activism can help your company, and how to best sell its importance and value within your company. Instructors: Nikki Dobay, COST, Portland, OR Fred Nicely, COST, Washington, DC
10:45 – 11:00	Refreshment Break/Networking & Check Out
11:00 – 12:15	Preparing for Audit Challenge and Controversy (<i>joint session with Income Tax School</i>) – Handling a state tax audit requires that a taxpayer not only know the substantive state tax law, but that they also know procedures and auditor personalities. This session will help students prepare for those audits and offer helpful tips to efficiently deal with audits that become difficult. Instructors: Doug Sigel, Ryan Law Firm*, Austin, TX Daniel Stanley, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn*, Lansing, MI Tim Winks, PwC*, McLean, VA
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch/Networking
1:00	Adjourn