



NEWS AND ALERTS

Sikich LLP and St. Louis Accounting Firm Stelmacki, Cochran & Sauerburger, P.C. Announce Merger

Jim Sikich, CEO of Sikich LLP, announces that Sikich has entered into a merger agreement with the tax, consulting, accounting, and auditing practice of Stelmacki, Cochran & Sauerburger, P.C. in St. Louis, Missouri. The merger is effective January 1, 2010. Stelmacki, Cochran & Sauerburger, P.C. will operate under the Sikich name and remain in their current location. The 19-person staff of Stelmacki, Cochran & Sauerburger will be joined by the technology team from Sikich's Earth City, MO office and operate as the St. Louis, Missouri office of Sikich.

"We are very pleased to join forces with Stelmacki, Cochran & Sauerburger," said Jim Sikich. "Our business philosophies, client service approach, and client profiles complement one another, and together we can offer a wider range of services and expertise to our clients." [Read more](#)

President Signs Haiti Tax Deduction into Law

On January 22, President Obama signed legislation that allows individuals to deduct their charitable contributions toward Haiti relief on their 2009 tax returns. Taxpayers who itemize their deductions may claim charitable contribution deductions on their 2009 tax returns for certain cash contributions made in 2010 to charities providing earthquake relief in Haiti. The donations must have been made to qualified charities between January 11, 2010, and March 11, 2010, specifically for the relief of victims in the areas affected by the January 12 earthquake. The new law applies to cash donations, including donations made by text, email, check and credit or debit cards, but not to contributions of property. Donations to foreign organizations are generally not deductible.

Please contact your client service representative if you have questions or would like additional information on this topic. We welcome the opportunity to be of assistance to you.

Near Record High Job Bias Charges; Employers Pay Out \$376 Million in Discrimination Awards; and, Engaging Employees Result in 44% More Profits.

This week we've got disturbing statistics from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that indicate a continuing trend in employment claims. And on the other side of the ledger, some quick tips in keeping your workforce engaged and productive. Also, on a more positive note, some things you can do to engage your employees and increase profitability. [Read the full HR Alert](#)

PTELL CPI Change for 2010 Extensions

[Click here](#) for the memorandum announcing the CPI change for 2010 extensions (for property taxes payable in 2011) for taxing districts subject to PTELL. The Consumer Price Index "cost of living", or inflation, percentage to use in computing the 2010 extensions (taxes payable in 2011) under PTELL is 2.7%. Additional PTELL information is available on the Illinois Department of Revenue's web site at www.tax.illinois.gov located under "Property Tax" and "Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL)" within the "Tax Information" category.

Please contact your client service representative if you have questions or would like additional information on this topic. We welcome the opportunity to be of assistance to you.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRY

Put g:Stat to Work for You-User Tip of the Month!

TIP #1: Edit Existing Comparison Groups

While working with a new year of fiscal data, you may realize that you would like to expand the scope of a comparison group you previously created. In fact, you may not even be sure what units make-up the comparison group you created and named "Comparables" a year ago!

No one likes to re-invent the wheel, and with g:Stat, you do not need to constantly create new groups. Rather, you can use your existing groups as a foundation-editing to add or remove units.

Follow these step-by-step instructions to change a group originally made by selecting individual units. [Read More](#)

UPCOMING SEMINARS

[Click here to see full event calendar](#)

January 28

[Minimizing Corporate Income Taxes: Trends, Challenges, and Solutions](#)

January 28-30

[IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference](#)

January 30

[DuPage County Bar Association Mega Meeting](#)

February 9

[Roth IRA Conversions - New Opportunities in 2010 \(Springfield\)](#)

February 12

[Technology: Return to Growth Seminar and a Movie \(The Wolfman\)](#)

February 13

[Roth IRA Conversions - New Opportunities in 2010 \(Decatur\)](#)

February 17

[Fire Right - Taking Away the Surprise & Avoiding the Guilt Webinar](#)

February 9-24

[Microsoft Dynamics GP Training Classes](#)

April 24-27

[Microsoft Dynamics Convergence 2010](#)

2010 HR Training Survey

The Sikich Human Resource Consulting team is putting together our training schedule for 2010 and would like your input. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey by clicking the link below. You will be able to select the training topics that you are most interested in for the upcoming year and offer any suggestions for topics not listed. We are looking forward to your feedback! [Click here to participate in survey](#)