THE LAWFUL TAX ADVANTAGE

Tax Planning in the United States and Germany: A Practical Guide for Employees, Freelancers, and Entrepreneurs

JUSTIN LIU

The Lawful Tax Advantage

Tax Planning in the United States and Germany: A Practical Guide for Employees, Freelancers, and Entrepreneurs

Steve Publications

This book is available at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage

This version was published on 2026-09-09

Leanpub

This is a Leanpub book. Leanpub empowers authors and publishers with the Lean Publishing process. Lean Publishing is the act of publishing an in-progress ebook using lightweight tools and many iterations to get reader feedback, pivot until you have the right book and build traction once you do.

Contents

Tax Planning in the United States and Germany: A Practical Guide for Employees, Freelancers, and Entrepreneurs

About this book: This book is your comprehensive guide to lawful tax planning in two of the world's most sophisticated tax jurisdictions. Whether you work in the United States or Germany, run a business or are self-employed, earn a modest salary or seven figures, these pages will show you how to understand your tax system and use it to your advantage – without crossing the line into evasion or relying on gimmicks. You will learn how tax residency works, why marginal and effective rates matter, how deductions and credits differ, what retirement vehicles save the most, which business structures are most tax-efficient, how to plan investments, how to handle cross-border situations, and how to avoid popular internet tax scams. Every strategy is grounded in current law, explained with real numbers, and accompanied by clear implementation steps. This book is not a replacement for professional tax advice, but it is the best preparation you can bring to a conversation with your tax professional.

Introduction

The Hidden Complexity of Tax Systems

Most people think about taxes the way they think about the weather: it happens to you, you deal with it, and you hope it is not too bad this year. You get a paycheck and some money disappears before you ever see it. At the end of the year you file a return and receive a refund or pay a balance. You may have heard a few tips – max out your 401(k), deduct your home office, register a GmbH – but you do not know how these strategies fit together, when they stop working, or how they interact with the rest of your financial life.

That is not your fault. Both the United States and Germany have extraordinarily complex tax codes. The US Internal Revenue Code alone runs to thousands of pages. German tax law, with the Einkommensteuergesetz, Gewerbesteuergesetz, Körperschaftsteuergesetz, Abgabenordnung, and endless administrative rulings, is similarly deep. Neither system was designed to be intuitive.

Yet complexity is not chaos. Both systems follow recognizable logic. They define what counts as income, who counts as a taxpayer, what expenses are allowable, and when tax is due. They contain built-in incentives – for saving for retirement, investing in housing, giving to charity, starting businesses, hiring employees, and supporting families. If you understand the rules well enough, you can plan your financial life so that you pay what the law requires and nothing more.

That is what this book is about.

What Lawful Tax Planning Actually Means

A word about terminology. People use phrases like “tax avoidance,” “tax planning,” “tax optimization,” and “tax minimization” in ways that sometimes confuse ethics with mechanics. For the purposes of this book, lawful tax planning means using the provisions of the tax code as written to reduce your tax burden. It does not involve hiding income, falsifying expenses, using shell companies in tax havens, or relying on schemes the IRS or the Finanzamt has flagged as abusive.

There is an old saying: “Taxes are inevitable, but so is death, and nobody dies sooner because they have a will.” You cannot avoid having to deal with taxes, but you can plan for them. Every major economy encourages certain behaviors through its tax system. Contributing to retirement accounts, buying a home, starting a business, investing in energy-efficient equipment – these activities are taxed differently than simply earning a salary and spending the proceeds. Lawful tax planning means understanding those differences and aligning your financial decisions with the system’s incentives.

This book covers both the United States and Germany in depth. These countries have fundamentally different approaches to taxation. The United States taxes based on both citizenship and residency, uses marginal progressive rates, has generous retirement account limits, and allows pass-through business taxation. Germany taxes based on residency, uses a steeply progressive income tax scale, has a separate trade tax for businesses, and maintains a distinctive tax class system for married couples. Both systems offer real advantages for taxpayers who plan carefully. Both also contain traps.

How to Use This Book

The chapters are organized as a progression from foundation to mastery. You do not need to read them in order, but doing so will help you build a coherent understanding.

Chapters 1 and 2 lay the groundwork. They explain how the US federal tax system and the German tax system work – not just what the current rates are, but how income is defined, how residency matters, and how the key mechanisms operate. If you only live and work in one of these countries, read both chapters anyway: understanding the underlying logic of any tax system makes it easier to spot planning opportunities.

Chapters 3 through 6 focus on employees and self-employed individuals in each country. Employees have different tools than business owners. In the US, employees can use pre-tax benefits, employer-sponsored retirement plans, and health savings accounts. In Germany, employees can claim Werbungskosten, use tax-advantaged pension schemes, and benefit from commuting deductions. Self-employed people in both countries have more flexibility but also more compliance obligations and different risk profiles.

Chapters 7 and 8 go deep into retirement and pension planning, which is one of the most powerful levers for tax reduction in both jurisdictions. Chapters 9 and 10 explain how business structures affect your tax bill – in the US, the choice among sole proprietorships, LLCs, partnerships, S corporations, and C corporations; in Germany, the choice among Einzelunternehmen, Freiberufler status, partnerships, GmbHs, and UGs.

Chapters 11 and 12 tailor advice to different income levels and family situations, because the right strategy for a freelancer earning sixty thousand dollars or euros is not the same as for a partner at a law firm earning three hundred thousand.

Chapters 13 and 14 cover investment taxation – how interest, dividends, capital gains, and investment losses are treated in each country. Chapters 15 and 16 move into more advanced strategies such as charitable giving vehicles, depreciation planning, income shifting, and long-term wealth accumulation.

Chapters 17 deals exclusively with US-Germany cross-border situations, which are among the most complex in international tax law. Chapter 18 focuses on compliance, documentation, audits, and the legal boundaries between lawful planning and evasion. Chapter 19 debunks popular but misleading internet tax strategies. Chapter 20 brings it all together into a framework for ongoing tax planning.

Numerical examples appear throughout. Each example states its assumptions clearly, shows the tax effect before and after a strategy, and explains the limitations. Treat them as educational illustrations, not as individualized advice for your situation. Tax outcomes depend on your filing status, income composition, business structure, state or municipal location, and many other factors.

Scope, Limitations, and the Importance of Professional Advice

This book covers federal income taxation in the United States and the corresponding national framework in Germany. US state taxes, German municipal taxes like the Gewerbesteuer, and social security contributions can significantly affect your total tax burden, and the book addresses these where they materially change the analysis. However, no single book can cover every local variation, every recent legislative change, or every edge case.

Tax law changes frequently. In the US, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 fundamentally reshaped individual and business taxation, and many of its provisions were later made permanent or modified by subsequent legislation. Germany has seen reforms to its income tax brackets, pension rules, energy efficiency incentives, and electronic invoicing requirements. Where possible, this book relies on rules and thresholds that are stable and likely to endure, but you should verify specific numbers with a current tax professional or official source.

This book is educational material, not professional tax advice. I cannot know the full facts of your situation, and I cannot provide individualized recommendations. For significant decisions – choosing a business entity, structuring cross-border compensation, implementing advanced retirement strategies – consult a qualified tax professional. In the United States, that may be a CPA, an Enrolled Agent, or a tax attorney. In Germany, a Steuerberater is often necessary, especially for self-employed individuals and business owners. A good tax professional is not an expense; they are an investment that pays for itself many times over.

The question is not whether you should pay tax. The question is how much you are required to pay, and whether you are taking full advantage of the legitimate opportunities the law provides. Let us begin.

Chapter 1: The Architecture of US Federal Taxation

What Is Taxable Income and How Is It Defined

The US federal income tax starts with a simple definition that hides remarkable complexity. Section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code says: "Gross income means all income from whatever source derived." Congress has listed exceptions – employer-provided health insurance, qualified retirement plan contributions, life insurance proceeds – but the starting presumption is that everything you receive of economic value counts as income unless the law says otherwise.

Wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions, tips, self-employment income, interest, dividends, rents, royalties, capital gains, pension distributions, and alimony (for certain agreements) are all includable. Some people are surprised to learn that certain fringe benefits – like the value of personal use of a company car – may also be taxable. Others are surprised that lottery winnings count. The system is broad-based by design.

But gross income is not the same as taxable income. Taxpayers reduce gross income through two types of deductions. "Above-the-line" deductions – officially called adjustments to income – reduce gross income to arrive at adjusted gross income, or AGI. Examples include contributions to traditional IRAs and 401(k) plans, student loan interest (up to $2,500, subject to phase-outs), and one-half of self-employment tax. "Below-the-line" deductions reduce AGI further to arrive at taxable income. Taxpayers choose either the standard deduction or the sum of their itemized deductions, and they can also claim certain tax credits.

The distinction between AGI and taxable income matters because many tax provisions use AGI as a trigger. Phase-outs for retirement contributions, medical expense deductions, and certain credits all depend on your AGI, not your taxable income. Lowering your AGI through above-the-line deductions can therefore unlock additional benefits.

Marginal Tax Rates Versus Effective Tax Rates

Understanding the difference between marginal and effective tax rates is the single most important concept for anyone who wants to plan their taxes intelligently.

The United States uses a progressive marginal tax system. Your income is sliced into layers, and each layer is taxed at a different rate. Only the income within a specific bracket is taxed at that bracket's rate – not all of your income.

For tax year 2025, the seven federal income tax brackets for single filers are:

- 10% on income from $0 to $11,925
- 12% on income from $11,926 to $48,475
- 22% on income from $48,476 to $103,350
- 24% on income from $103,351 to $197,300
- 32% on income from $197,301 to $250,525
- 35% on income from $250,526 to $626,350
- 37% on income above $626,350

Suppose you are a single taxpayer in 2025 with taxable income of exactly $100,000. Your income falls into the 22% bracket because it exceeds $48,475 but does not reach $103,350. Your marginal tax rate is 22%. If you earn one more dollar, that dollar will be taxed at 22%. That is what "marginal" means: it is the rate on the next dollar of income.

But your effective tax rate – the percentage of your total income that you actually pay in federal income tax – is much lower. Using the 2025 brackets, your tax would be:

- 10% of $11,925 = $1,192.50
- 12% of ($48,475 − $11,925) = 12% of $36,550 = $4,386
- 22% of ($100,000 − $48,475) = 22% of $51,525 = $11,335.50

Total tax: $16,914. Effective tax rate: 16.9%.

This distinction matters because people often make poor financial decisions based on a misunderstanding of marginal rates. You might think, "I am in the 24% bracket, so every dollar I earn gets taxed at 24%." That is incorrect.

Only dollars in that specific range are taxed at 24%. You should never let your marginal tax rate discourage you from earning more.

For tax planning, your marginal rate is the key number. When you are deciding whether to contribute to a pre-tax retirement account, accelerate a deduction, or defer income, you want to know what rate applies to the dollars you are moving. If your marginal rate is 24%, contributing $1,000 to a traditional 401(k) saves you $240 in federal income tax for the current year. That is the power of marginal thinking.

Filing Status and Household Taxation

The US tax system does not tax individuals in isolation. Your filing status determines your standard deduction amount, your tax brackets, your eligibility for certain credits, and many other provisions. There are five filing statuses:

1. Single: For unmarried individuals who do not qualify for any other status.
2. Married Filing Jointly: For married couples who choose to file a single return together.
3. Married Filing Separately: For married couples who file individual returns.
4. Head of Household: For unmarried individuals who maintain a household for a qualifying child or dependent relative.
5. Qualifying Surviving Spouse: For widowed individuals with dependent children, available for two years after the spouse's death.

Married Filing Jointly is usually the best choice. Joint filers in 2025 get a standard deduction of $31,500 and benefit from wider tax brackets – the 37% top bracket does not kick in until $751,601 of taxable income, compared to $626,351 for single filers. The joint brackets are roughly, but not exactly, double the single brackets, which means some dual-income couples face a "marriage penalty" when both earn high incomes, while some single-earner couples get a "marriage bonus."

Head of Household can be valuable for unmarried parents. In 2025, the standard deduction is $23,625, and the brackets are more favorable than for single filers. The requirements are specific: you must be unmarried or considered unmarried on the last day of the year, pay more than half the cost of keeping up a home, and have a qualifying person live with you for more than half the year (with exceptions for parents).

Married Filing Separately is generally the worst choice, but there are situations where it is necessary – such as when one spouse has significant deductible expenses and itemized deductions are limited to medical expenses exceeding 7.5% of AGI, or when liability protection is important. Be aware that certain credits and deductions, including the Earned Income Tax Credit and student loan interest deduction, are not available to married filing separately taxpayers.

Standard Deduction Versus Itemized Deductions

Most US taxpayers take the standard deduction. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 nearly doubled the standard deduction, and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act later made most of those increases permanent. For tax year 2025, the standard deduction is $15,750 for single filers, $31,500 for married filing jointly, and $23,625 for heads of household. Taxpayers who are 65 or older or blind get an additional amount.

Itemizing means you list individual deductions on Schedule A and total them. If the total exceeds your standard deduction, you take the itemized amount instead. The main itemized deductions are:

- Mortgage interest on up to $750,000 of acquisition debt ($1 million if the loan was taken before December 15, 2017).
- State and local taxes (SALT) up to $10,000 ($5,000 for married filing separately), including property taxes and either income or sales taxes, but not both.
- Charitable contributions to qualified organizations, subject to percentage-of-AGI limits.
- Medical expenses exceeding 7.5% of AGI.

The SALT cap of $10,000 was particularly impactful for residents of high-tax states like California, New York, and Illinois. Many high-income taxpayers in those states now find that their combined state income tax, property tax, and sales tax exceed the cap, leaving them unable to fully deduct their state tax burden. Some states have created workarounds, such as allowing contributions to state-sponsored trusts that can be deducted federally while offsetting state tax liability. These structures are complex and should be evaluated with professional guidance.

Even if you take the standard deduction in a given year, itemizing can make sense in another year. A common strategy is “deduction bunching”: you concentrate charitable contributions or property tax payments into one year so that your itemized deductions exceed the standard deduction in that year, then take the standard deduction in the alternating years. This works especially well when combined with a donor-advised fund.

Tax Credits and Why They Are More Powerful Than Deductions

People often confuse tax deductions with tax credits. They are not the same, and the distinction is critical.

A deduction reduces your taxable income. A credit reduces your tax dollar for dollar. If your marginal tax rate is 24%, a $1,000 deduction saves you $240. A $1,000 credit saves you $1,000.

The US tax system offers many credits, some refundable and some non-refundable. Refundable credits – like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the child tax credit’s refundable portion, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit (for education) – can reduce your tax to zero and result in a refund. Nonrefundable credits – like the credit for retirement savings contributions or the foreign tax credit – can reduce your tax to zero but not below.

The EITC is one of the most significant credits in the system. For tax year 2025, a single filer with three or more qualifying children can receive up to $8,046, provided their earned income and adjusted gross income are below $61,555. For childless workers aged 25 to 64, the maximum is $649 with an income limit of $19,104. The credit phases in as income rises, reaches a plateau, then phases out. It is fully refundable.

The child tax credit is also substantial. For 2025, the credit is $2,200 per qualifying child under age 17, of which up to $1,700 is refundable. The credit phases out for high-income taxpayers: for modified AGI above $400,000 for married filing jointly or $200,000 for others, the credit is reduced by $50 for each $1,000 above the threshold.

For self-employed individuals, the child and dependent care credit can offset a portion of childcare or dependent care expenses, up to $3,000 per qualifying individual or $6,000 for two or more, with a credit rate between 10% and 35% depending on income. The credit is nonrefundable.

Understanding which credits you qualify for is one of the easiest ways to reduce your tax bill. Many taxpayers leave money on the table because they do not know that credits exist or do not realize they meet the eligibility requirements.

Withholding, Estimated Taxes, and Cash Flow Management

Tax planning is not only about how much you pay; it is also about when you pay it. The US operates on a pay-as-you-go system. You are supposed to prepay your tax through withholding on wages and/or estimated tax payments throughout the year, then reconcile at the end.

Employees have tax withheld from each paycheck based on Form W-4, which tells your employer your filing status, dependents, and any additional withholding you request. The 2020 redesign of Form W-4 made it more accurate but also more complex. If your withholding is too high, you are essentially giving the government an interest-free loan. If it is too low, you face a potential penalty and a large tax bill at filing time.

The safe harbor rules protect you from the underpayment penalty if your withholding plus estimated payments equal at least:

- 90% of your current-year tax liability, or
- 100% of your prior-year tax liability (110% if your prior-year AGI was over $150,000, or $75,000 for married filing separately).

Self-employed individuals, investors with significant capital gains, rental property owners, and anyone with substantial income not subject to withholding should make quarterly estimated tax payments using Form 1040-ES. The due dates are typically April 15, June 15, September 15, and January 15 of the following year. Missing payments or underpaying can result in penalties of around 5% per year, calculated on a per-occurrence basis.

Smart withholding and estimated tax management is itself a form of tax planning. If you know you will have a large tax bill coming – perhaps from a stock sale or a bonus – you can increase withholding or make an extra estimated payment to avoid the penalty. Conversely, if you are making large deductible contributions to retirement accounts, charitable organizations, or energy-efficient home improvements, you may want to reduce withholding slightly so that the refund comes from the government rather than from your own pocket. The goal is not to avoid paying tax, but to optimize your cash flow while remaining compliant.

Temporary Versus Permanent Provisions in the US Code

A final foundational concept: not all tax provisions are created equal. Some are permanent parts of the Internal Revenue Code. Others are temporary, scheduled to expire, or subject to annual adjustment.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 introduced sweeping changes that were partly permanent and partly temporary. The reduction in corporate tax rates and the creation of the QBI deduction under Section 199A are now permanent. The near-doubling of the standard deduction is permanent. The SALT cap of $10,000 remains in place. But other provisions, like the increase in the annual gift exclusion and certain depreciation provisions, have specific sunset dates.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), enacted in 2025, made many of the TCJA individual tax provisions permanent that were previously scheduled to expire after 2025. It also modified standard deductions and certain credits. Understanding whether a provision is temporary is important for planning purposes. A deduction that is available today but scheduled to sunset in a few years may be worth accelerating into, if you can do so legitimately.

Congress can change the rules at any time, and it has changed them many times. The most reliable planning strategies are those built on permanent or long-standing provisions: the marginal tax rate structure, the ability to defer income through retirement accounts, the deductibility of business expenses, the preferential treatment of long-term capital gains. Build your strategy around those foundations, and you will be resilient to political change.

At the end of this chapter, you should understand how the US federal tax system defines income, applies rates, and provides relief through deductions and credits. The next chapter turns to Germany, where a different but equally sophisticated system governs how employees and business owners pay tax.

Chapter 2: The Architecture of German Taxation

Tax Residency and Worldwide Income in Germany

German tax law draws a fundamental distinction between unlimited tax liability (unbeschränkte Steuerpflicht) and limited tax liability (beschränkte Steuerpflicht). If you are a resident of Germany for tax purposes, you are subject to unlimited tax liability on your worldwide income. If you are not a resident, you are taxed only on German-source income.

You are considered a resident if either:

1. You have your domicile (Wohnsitz) in Germany – that is, you maintain a dwelling in Germany and use it with the intention of keeping it, or
2. You have your habitual abode (gewöhnlicher Aufenthalt) in Germany – that is, you stay in Germany for more than six months.

This is broader than the US citizenship-based system but narrower in one respect: Germany does not tax non-residents on foreign income simply because they are German citizens. A German citizen living permanently in the United States without a German domicile or habitual abode is not subject to German income tax on US earnings.

For dual residents – people who meet the residency criteria of both countries – the US-Germany tax treaty contains tie-breaker rules. These rules consider factors such as the location of the permanent home, the center of vital interests, habitual abode, and nationality. The treaty determines which country has the primary right to tax, and the other country provides relief through exemption or credit.

The Progressive Income Tax and Tax-Free Threshold

Germany's income tax (Einkommensteuer) is governed by Section 32a of the Income Tax Code (EStG). It uses a progressive rate structure with distinct zones:

- Up to the basic tax-free allowance (Grundfreibetrag): 0%
- Above the Grundfreibetrag up to approximately €66,760 in 2024: rates progressively rising from about 14% to 42%
- From approximately €66,760 to €277,826: flat 42% (the top rate, Spitzensteuersatz)
- Above €277,826: flat 45% (the super top rate, Reichensteuer)

The Grundfreibetrag was €11,784 in 2024, €12,096 in 2025, and €12,348 in 2026. For married couples jointly assessed, the thresholds are doubled.

The system is steeper at the margins than the US system, especially in the progressive zone where rates climb quickly. A single earner who just crosses into the 42% bracket faces a significant increase in marginal tax. For couples, the splitting mechanism (Ehegattensplitting) effectively doubles the relevant thresholds, which means a single high earner is taxed more heavily than a married person whose spouse does not work.

The Tax Class System for Married Couples

Germany uses a unique payroll tax system called Lohnsteuerklassen (tax classes) that determine how much income tax is withheld from your salary each month. For employees, this is a cash flow mechanism rather than a substantive difference in annual tax, because the actual annual income tax is determined through the income tax return (Einkommensteuererklärung) at year-end.

Single employees are in tax class 1. Married employees can choose from several combinations:

- Class 4/4: The default. Both spouses have the same withholding rate. Good for couples with similar incomes.
- Class 3/5: The higher-earning spouse is in class 3 (lower withholding) and the lower-earning spouse is in class 5 (higher withholding). This increases the household's monthly net income but often creates a tax bill at year-end, because the overall tax liability is not reduced – only the timing changes.

- Class 4/4 mit Faktor: A variant of 4/4 that applies a correction factor to reduce the likelihood of year-end underpayments or overpayments when spouses earn different amounts.

As of 2024, there were political discussions about abolishing classes 3 and 5 by 2030, but these plans have been postponed or revised several times. The classes remain in effect.

The key insight for married couples is that tax class selection is primarily about monthly cash flow, not annual tax. The actual tax is determined at assessment based on total household income and the splitting procedure. Couples using class 3/5 should always budget for a potential year-end settlement.

Werbungskosten and the Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag

Employees in Germany can deduct work-related expenses called Werbungskosten from their employment income. These include:

- Commuting costs (Entfernungskosten): €0.30 per kilometer for each one-way trip beyond the first 21 kilometers. For electric vehicles, the rate is €0.35 per kilometer.
- Work equipment (Arbeitsmittel): Computers, software, professional literature, and tools used for work, fully deductible in the year of purchase if they are necessary for the job.
- Union dues (Gewerkschaftsbeiträge): Fully deductible.
- Professional continuing education (Fortbildungskosten): If the training maintains or improves your ability to earn income in your current or planned profession.
- Home office: €6 per day for up to 210 days (max €1,260 per year) if you work from home, without needing to prove actual expenses.
- Travel expenses for business trips: Actual costs or daily allowances.
- Expenses for a second home if required by your job: Rent, utilities, and other costs proportional to the duration of the assignment.

The tax office automatically assumes a flat-rate deduction (Arbeitnehmer-Pauschbetrag) of €1,230 per year for all employees. If your actual Werbungskosten exceed €1,230, you can file an income tax return and claim the difference. Many Germans do not realize they are owed refunds because they never claim Werbungskosten above the Pauschbetrag.

The Basic Tax-Free Allowance and Family Allowances

The Grundfreibetrag, mentioned earlier, is the threshold below which no income tax is due. For 2024 it was €11,784 for single taxpayers and €23,568 for jointly assessed couples.

Beyond the basic allowance, Germany has extensive family-related provisions. Parents receive Kindergeld (child benefit), which was €250 per month per child in 2024 and €255 in 2025. The child benefit is paid automatically by the family allowance office (Familienkasse) regardless of income.

At the same time, parents benefit from the Kinderfreibetrag (child tax allowance), which in 2024 was €6,612 per child and in 2025 was €6,672. The Finanzamt performs a "favorability test" (Günstigerprüfung) each year to determine whether the Kinderfreibetrag would reduce the family's income tax more than the Kindergeld. If so, the parents receive the tax benefit; otherwise, they receive the Kindergeld. There is no choice to make; the system automatically applies the better option.

The Kinderfreibetrag is particularly valuable for higher-income families whose marginal tax rates make the tax savings from the allowance larger than the fixed Kindergeld amount. For low- and middle-income families, Kindergeld is usually better.

Solidarity Surcharge, Church Tax, and Local Variations

On top of the basic income tax, two additional levies may apply:

The Solidaritätszuschlag (solidarity surcharge) was introduced in 1991 to fund the reconstruction of East Germany after reunification. It is nominally 5.5% of the income tax liability. However, since 2021, most taxpayers no longer pay it. For single taxpayers, the surcharge is fully exempted if their income tax liability is €16,956 or less. For jointly assessed couples, the exemption threshold is €33,912. Above those thresholds, the surcharge applies only to income tax exceeding the exemption level. For high-income earners whose income tax liability exceeds roughly €27,000 (single) or €54,000 (joint), the full 5.5% applies again.

The Kirchensteuer (church tax) is charged in most German states to members of recognized religious communities, primarily the Protestant and

Catholic churches. The rate is set by each state and is typically 8% or 9% of the income tax liability (not of total income). It is collected by the tax office on behalf of the church. You can leave the church at any time and stop paying the tax, but the administrative process varies by state and can take several months.

Local taxes also affect the overall picture. The Grundsteuer (property tax) applies to owners of real estate. For business owners, the Gewerbesteuer (trade tax) is levied at the municipal level, with rates varying widely depending on the local Hebesatz (multiplier). A detailed look at these taxes follows later in the book when we discuss business structures and self-employment.

The German Tax Authority and How the System Operates

Understanding how the German tax system works procedurally is important for planning. Unlike the US, where filing a tax return is mandatory for most workers above a low threshold, many German employees are not required to file an income tax return unless they fall into specific categories: self-employed individuals, recipients of unemployment benefits, people with multiple employers, people who received church tax-exempt income, or those who wish to claim deductions above the automatic Pauschbeträge.

However, filing voluntarily is almost always beneficial for anyone with above-average work-related expenses, because the German tax system operates on assessment rather than self-assessment. You submit a return, the Finanzamt calculates your tax, issues an assessment notice (Steuerbescheid), and you receive a refund or pay a balance. The process can take several months, especially in peak season.

The Finanzamt has extensive audit powers. A Betriebsprüfung (business audit) for self-employed individuals can take weeks or months and examines books, records, and bank statements. The standard statute of limitations for tax assessment is four years from the end of the tax year, extendable to five or ten years in cases of negligence or intentional underreporting.

For tax planning purposes, this means that documentation matters. Every deduction must be verifiable. The German principles of orderly record-keeping, known as GoBD (Grundsätze zur ordnungsmäßigen Führung und Aufbewahrung von Büchern, Aufzeichnungen und Unterlagen), require electronic records to be stored in a way that allows inspection by the tax authority. Documents must generally be retained for ten years (six to ten years depending on the type of document, though some records like invoices were reduced to eight years under recent reforms).

With this foundation in German tax architecture, we can now turn to the specific planning opportunities available to employees in each country. The next chapter examines US employee benefits and compensation strategies in detail.

Chapter 3: Tax Planning for US Employees — Compensation and Benefits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Pre-Tax Salary Reductions and Cafeteria Plans

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans and the Payroll Tax Advantage

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Health Savings Accounts and High-Deductible Health Plans

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Educational Assistance and Dependent Care Benefits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Commuting, Parking, and Flexible Spending Accounts

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Stock Options, Restricted Stock, and Equity Planning

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Reimbursements, Business Expenses, and the Post-2017 Landscape

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 4: Tax Planning for US Self-Employed and Independent Contractors

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Self-Employment Tax and the Deduction for One-Half SE Tax

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Classifying Yourself Correctly — Employee Versus Contractor

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Ordinary and Necessary Business Expenses

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Home Office Deduction and the Simplified Method

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Vehicles, Equipment, and Depreciation Including Bonus Depreciation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Income Timing and Expense Acceleration Strategies

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Loss Limitations, Suspended Losses, and the Passive Activity Rules

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 5: Tax Planning for German Employees — Benefits and Deductions

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Werbungskosten and What You Can Deduct as an Employee

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Home-Office Flat Rate and Commuting Expenses

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Work Equipment, Professional Clothing, and Tools

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Employment Pension Schemes and Tax Advantages

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Riester and Rürup — State-Supported Retirement Plans

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Commuting Reimbursements and Employer Mobility Benefits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Education Expenses and Further-Training Costs

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 6: Tax Planning for German Self-Employed — Freiberufler and Gewerbetreibende

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Freiberufler Versus Gewerbetreibende — Why It Matters

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Betriebsausgaben and What Is Deductible

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Home Offices and Private Use of Business Assets

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Depreciation of Equipment and the Sonderabschreibungen

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Business Vehicles and the 1 Percent Rule

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Trade Tax and the Grundbesitz and Gewerbe Deductions

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Loss Carryforwards and the Minimum Income Rules

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 7: US Retirement and Health Planning — The Three Buckets

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Employer Plans — 401(k), 403(b), and 457(b) Accounts

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

IRAs — Traditional, Roth, Backdoor Roth, and Mega Backdoor

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Self-Employed Retirement Plans — SEP IRA and Solo 401(k)

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Health Savings Account as a Triple Tax Advantage

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Contribution Limits, Income Phase-Outs, and Catch-Up Contributions

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Required Minimum Distributions and Lifetime Tax Planning

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Asset Location and Where to Hold Which Investments

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 8: German Retirement Planning — Vorsorge and Altersvorsorge

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Three Pillars of German Retirement Provision

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Occupational Pensions and Direct Insurance Arrangements

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Rürup Pension — The Basisrente for High Earners and Self-Employed

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Riester Pension — Subsidized Savings for Lower and Middle Income

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Private Pension Products and the 50/50 Rule

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Pension Income Taxation and the Entgeltumwandlung Strategy

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Comparison of Tax Advantages Across German Pension Vehicles

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 9: US Business Structures and Entity Selection

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Sole Proprietorship and Single-Member LLCs — Pass-Through Simplicity

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Multi-Member LLCs and Partnerships — Allocations and K-1s

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The S Corporation Election and Salary Versus Distribution

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The C Corporation — Double Taxation and When It Makes Sense

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Qualified Business Income Deduction and How Entity Choice Affects It

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

State-Level Considerations and Franchise Taxes

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

When to Change Entity Types and How to Do It Legally

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 10: German Business Structures and Entity Selection

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Sole Proprietorship — Einzelunternehmen and Freiberufler

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Partnerships and Personal Liability Structures

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The GmbH — The Standard Limited Liability Company

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The UG — The Mini-GmbH for Startups

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The GmbH & Co KG — Combining Partnership and Corporation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Corporate Income Tax, Trade Tax, and the Effective Tax Burden

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Social Security Implications of Entity Choice

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 11: US Tax Planning by Income Level and Life Situation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Low-Income Workers — EITC, CTC, and Safety-Net Credits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Middle-Income Professionals — Standard Deductions and Retirement Contributions

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

High-Income Earners — Phase-Outs, Alternative Minimum Tax, and Bracket Management

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Married Couples — Joint Filing, Income Splitting, and the Marriage Penalty

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Families with Children — Dependent Exemptions and Education Savings

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Retirees — Social Security Taxation, RMDs, and Healthcare Costs

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Dual-Income Households — Coordinating Benefits and Credits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 12: German Tax Planning by Income Level and Family Situation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Low-Income Earners — The Tax-Free Threshold and Social Benefits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Middle-Income Employees — Werbungskosten and the Four-Percent Rule

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

High-Income Earners — The Top Bracket and Income-Splitting Limitations

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Married Couples — Tax Class Combinations and Splitting

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Families with Children — Kindergeld, Kinderfreibetrag, and Childcare Costs

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Civil Servants — The Beamtenversorgung and Tax Treatment

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Self-Employed at Different Income Levels

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 13: Investment Taxation in the United States

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Interest Income — Taxable Versus Tax-Exempt Bonds

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Dividends — Ordinary Versus Qualified and Rate Differences

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Capital Gains — Short-Term Versus Long-Term Holding Periods

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Tax-Loss Harvesting — Mechanics and Wash-Sale Rules

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Real Estate Investment Trusts and Depreciation Benefits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

529 Plans, UTMA, and Custodial Accounts for Education

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Crypto and Digital Assets — How the IRS Treats Them

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 14: Investment Taxation in Germany

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Abgeltungssteuer — The Flat Tax on Investment Income

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Savings Allowance and the Tax Certificate

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Capital Gains — Holding Periods and the Halving Procedure

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Mutual Funds — The Vorabpauschale and Reporting

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Real Estate — The Ten-Year Rule and Private Sales

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Life Insurance and Pension Products as Investments

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Foreign Investments and the Source Tax Problem

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 15: Advanced US Tax Planning Strategies

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Charitable Giving — DAFs, Donor-Advised Funds, and Bunching

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Charitable Remainder Trusts and CRT Mechanics

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Income Shifting to Lower-Bracket Family Members

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Opportunity Zones — Tax Deferral and Exclusion

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Cost Segregation and Accelerated Depreciation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Family Limited Partnerships and Estate Planning

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Alternative Minimum Tax and How to Avoid It

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 16: Advanced German Tax Planning Strategies

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Accelerated Depreciation and Sonderabschreibungen for Energy Efficiency

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Vermietung und Verpachtung Income Category

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Investment in Limited Partnerships and the Loss Limitation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Charitable Donations and the Tax Deduction Limits

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Family Tax Planning — Gifts, Inheritance, and Transfers

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Holding Companies and the Participation Exemption

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Tax Planning for Business Succession and Exit

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 17: Cross-Border Taxation — United States and Germany

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Dual Tax Residency and the Tie-Breaker Rules

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Employment Income — Where Is It Taxed

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Self-Employment and the Permanent Establishment Concept

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Investment Income — Dividends, Interest, and Royalties Under the Treaty

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Pensions and Social Security — Totalization Agreement

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

US Citizens Abroad — FATCA, FBAR, and the Expatriation Tax

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

German Taxpayers with US Investments and Income

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

When Cross-Border Issues Require a Specialist

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 18: Compliance, Documentation, and Audit Defense

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Legal Line — Tax Avoidance, Aggressive Planning, and Evasion

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Record-Keeping in the United States — Requirements and Best Practices

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Record-Keeping in Germany — GoBD and Digital Documentation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Filing Obligations, Deadlines, and Estimated Tax Payments

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Disclosure Requirements — Foreign Accounts, Related Parties, Reportable Transactions

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

When You Get Audited — Process, Rights, and Defense

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Penalties, Interest, and How to Avoid Them

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 19: Common Tax Myths and Internet Tax Scams

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Sovereign Citizen and Tax Protester Movements

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Home Office and Vehicle Expense Scams

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The "Tax-Free Business Expense" Seminar

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Misunderstanding the Qualified Business Income Deduction

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The LLC Tax Loophole That Does Not Exist

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Crypto Tax Avoidance and Mining Income Myths

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

How to Spot a Bad Tax Strategy

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Chapter 20: Building Your Long-Term Tax Strategy

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Tax Planning Calendar — Timing Is Everything

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Building a Planning Checklist by Your Situation

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

When to Hire a CPA or Steuerberater and What to Expect

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Coordinated Planning Across Income, Investments, and Estate

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Annual Review and Course Correction

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Communicating With Your Tax Professionals Effectively

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Mindset of a Tax-Aware Individual

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Conclusion

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Summary of Key Insights Across Both Systems

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

The Philosophy of Lawful Tax Planning

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

Final Thoughts on Building Wealth While Respecting the Law

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.

References

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at https://leanpub.com/thelawfultaxadvantage.