

Jefferson County Business Alert: Deadline to File Paperwork for Occupational Tax Refund Extended

By: Rutledge & Yaghmai

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A judge has given Jefferson County businesses an extra month to provide data regarding occupational taxes paid by employees during a seven-month period in 2009 that now is subject to a taxpayer refund, the [Birmingham News](#) reports.

Companies doing business in Jefferson County were originally required to submit that information to the court-appointed refund agent, Ed Gentle, before July 13. At the request of several county businesses, Circuit Judge David Rains extended the deadline to Aug. 15.

The information is needed so Gentle can determine each worker's pro-rated share of the bifurcated refund plan. The companies also will be used as a means to distribute the tax rebates to employees who worked for them during the period in question, which spans from Jan. 12, 2009 to Aug. 13, 2009.

Rains has set aside \$31.2 million — about 83 percent of the total tax collections in the refund period — for an initial, automatic rebate that will be distributed after Rains sets fees for the lawyers whose 2007 lawsuit led him to strike down the county's original occupational tax and a related business license fee. The judge also tentatively approved a separate settlement regarding \$6.5 million of the tax collections subject to refund. A formal hearing is scheduled for Aug. 8.

The required Employee Refund Data Form will be used by Gentle in both parts of the rebate plan. The form is available on the official refund Web site, www.jeffcoocctax.com.

After they submit their Data Form, Jefferson County businesses will be paid a fee of 1 percent of the overall taxes their employees paid that will be subject to the initial automatic refund.

[Rutledge & Yaghmai](#) is a full service litigation firm that offers more than fifty-seven years of diverse legal experience. The attorneys of [Rutledge & Yaghmai](#) leverage that experience to assist large and small businesses throughout Alabama in achieving their business goals while minimizing their risks.

In addition to offering transactional business services such as Alabama business formation and planning, [Rutledge & Yaghmai](#) prides itself on the diversity of Alabama business litigation cases it has handled successfully.

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About Rutledge & Yaghmai

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Rutledge & Yaghmai (R & Y) is a full service litigation firm that offers more than fiftyseven years of diverse legal experience. Formed in 2006, Rutledge & Yaghmai concentrates on giving each case individual attention as opposed to carrying a mass a number of cases. That way they are able to develop a lifelong relationship with clients.

William Rutledge

William Eugene Rutledge graduated from the University of Alabama in 1960. He graduated from the University of Alabama Law School 1966. Mr. Rutledge served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army and as Chief of Military Justice at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was trial counsel for the United States where he prosecuted several nationally publicized court marshalls. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal for his trial work in the Army.

He began the practice of law in Birmingham, AL on August 1, 1966. His early trial practice was a mixture of business litigation and railroad related litigation. He has a strong appellate practice in which he has excelled since the early 1970s and continues that practice till the present time. He has handled over 100 cases in the state appellate system and 80 cases in the federal appellate system.

He specialized through the years of his practice in business formations. He has assisted new entrepreneurs in the formation and strategy of their businesses. Also, he represents companies in business litigation. Cases have ranged from business disputes among members to representing smaller companies against the "larger corporations." Practice memberships include the Bar of the Alabama Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States. He is married to Sherry Crittenden Rutledge and has four children and six grandchildren.

Greg Yaghmai

Greg graduated with honors from The Citadel where he received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration. In 1997, he received his law degree from Cumberland School of Law.

For the first four and half of years of his legal career, Greg served as a Deputy District Attorney for the Jefferson County, Alabama District Attorney's Office. By age 26 he tried his first death penalty case. He went on to try either solo or as lead counsel seven capital murder and six murder cases. He also had the benefit of being the first lawyer in Alabama to be certified by the Alabama State Troopers as a Traffic Homicide investigator. He obtained this after attending a two-week seminar, which required him to live in a closed military base with forty other police officers. He also had the unique

experience of being provided alcohol in a controlled setting so he could be utilized by the Jefferson County Sheriff's training academy in officers learning how to administer field sobriety tests. He is a member of the National College for DUI Defense (NCDD) which is a prestigious organization defending those charged with DUI.

He subsequently left the DA's office to become a partner in a forty lawyer civil litigation firm. This firm concentrated mostly on civil defense work, but Greg continued to expand his plaintiff and criminal defense practice.

In 2006, he co-founded Rutledge & Yaghmai. One of Greg's goals was to reduce the number of cases handled to allow for more individual attention to each case. Rutledge & Yaghmai maintains a general litigation practice. Greg focuses on personal injury, business litigation, and criminal defense cases.

Greg has truly handled cases from all sides: criminal prosecution/defense and civil plaintiff/defense. Overall, Greg has tried more than seventy-five jury trials to conclusion. He has significant experience in using visual presentations and present day media applications in presenting cases to jury. His ultimate jury consultant is his wife, Brandi, who he met when she served on the jury of a rape/kidnapping case he tried.

He has recently been asked to teach Trial Techniques for the International Web based site Solo Practice University. There he will share his expertise in trying jury cases.

Greg is licensed in all state and federal courts in Alabama and the 11th Circuit