



## Robert W. Wood

THE TAX LAWYER

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### Would Mustache Tax Be Better Than 9-9-9?



Dr. John Yeutter in class at Northeastern State University

At the federal, state and local level, new taxes are coming all the time. Budget deficits and eroding tax bases suggest new taxes can be easier to stomach than raising rates. Taxes are on Botox, tanning, music downloads, and more.

Some taxes are “[sin taxes](#),” targeting what some say is socially irresponsible behavior like alcohol, cigarettes, soft drinks and candy. They differ from sales taxes mostly by being more targeted. Services may be targeted too. A 10% tanning tax went into effect in 2010, despite objections from the nation’s 20,000 indoor tanning salons. See [There’s No SPF For IRS Tanning Tax](#).

But now there’s a movement to tax mustaches, or more exactly to tax you if you **don’t** grow one. That’s one interpretation of giving special tax breaks to those who do. With tongue firmly in mustached cheek, Professor [John Yeutter](#) and the [American Mustache Institute](#) floated this baby: the [Stimulus To Allow Critical Hair Expenses](#)—the **STACHE Act**.

If enacted, it would provide a \$250 annual tax incentive for mustached Americans. Yeutter is Associate Professor of Accounting and Tax Policy

at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, authored [“Mustached Americans And The Triple Bottom Line.”](#) More important, he sports a handlebar.

Professor Yeutter claims there’s a correlation between mustaches and high income. Yup, and he says that means you should get a tax break to encourage the facial hair. But is this chicken or egg, I wonder? No matter.

The Professor claims that since a mustache makes money, the costs of maintenance (think trimming and grooming I guess) should be considered a deductible expense related to the production of income under Internal Revenue Code [Section 212](#). If enacted (fat chance, I say), the STACHE Act would offer a \$250 deduction for expenditures for mustache grooming supplies in determining [Adjusted Gross Income](#).

Yup, you read correctly. That means the good doctor is suggesting you don’t have to itemize for Uncle Sam to keep your stache looking smart. That would elevate the mustache above such items as attorney fees, that still trip up people as miscellaneous itemized deductions and land thousands of Americans in the nightmare land of the [alternative minimum tax](#)—otherwise known as AMT. See [AMT Problems For Attorney Fees Remain](#).

So while I’m wondering: [Will Everyone Pay AMT Next Year?](#) The professor’s answer could be: not if you grow a mustache. The professor and his entourage note that keeping your hairy friend in good shape can involve:

- Mustache and beard trimming instruments;
- Conditioning agents and wax;
- Facial hair coloring products (for men and women over 43 years of age); and
- Mustache combs and mirrors.

My advice? Don’t buy this stuff just yet.

For more, see:

[STACHE Act: The Mustached American Tax Incentive](#)

[Do Men With Mustaches Deserve A Tax Break?](#)

[Unusual Tax Breaks](#)

[9-9-9 will shift tax burden to elderly, low-income earners](#)

[In Taxes, Is Cain Able?](#)

[Cain's Tax Mutiny](#)

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