



## Robert W. Wood

THE TAX LAWYER

Dec. 6 2012

### Stephen Baldwin Tax Arrest: The Usual Suspects

[Stephen Baldwin](#), the kookiest of acting' [Baldwin](#) Brothers, has been arrested over felony tax charges. Most states don't go to such extremes but New York state tax authorities have had enough. They say the strange(r) Baldwin of Usual Suspects fame failed to file returns and pay NY taxes for 2008, 2009 and 2010. NY claims over \$350,000 is due.

See [Stephen Baldwin arrested, charged with failure to file state taxes.](#)



Actors Billy Baldwin, Stephen Baldwin, Alec Baldwin and Daniel Baldwin. (Image credit: Getty Images via @daylife)

Wait, isn't this the born-again post-9/11 Christian Baldwin? The very same. He and others founded Breakthrough Ministry, which was designed to utilize [extreme sports](#) as a ministry via arena tours, called AsSalt Tours. The tours featured extreme sports celebrities. No, this is not made up. And check out this official site: [Stephen Baldwin 2.0 | Actor Stephen Baldwin's Official Website.](#)

Baldwin's lawyer said he was working with the New York State Tax Department to resolve any differences, and Baldwin made a good showing with a \$100,000 down payment upon his arraignment. Still, the

DA claims Baldwin could face up to four years in prison if convicted. See [Stephen Baldwin arrested on charges of state income tax evasion](#).

Baldwin may not be super wealthy by Hollywood standards but he still is a swell target for tax authorities looking for examples. Not coincidentally, Baldwin's more famous big brother Alec, of 30 Rock fame, was in the tax news not long ago. When New York State Senate majority leader Dean Skelos opposed a tax surcharge on top New Yorkers taxpayers, Alec Baldwin tussled with him via twitter.

Senator Skelos accused Baldwin of being a hypocrite for buying tony New York property. The 30 Rock star challenged the Senator to a tax return face-off. "I pay more in income txs in 1 yr that Skelos pays in 20" [tweeted](#) the Big Baldwin. In effect, mine is much bigger, he said.

But there's often another side of tax issues. It wasn't long before that Alec Baldwin was being pursued by New York City over a share of his princely income. See [Alec Baldwin Faces Tax Charges](#). With Mayor Bloomberg heading for retirement, maybe Alec will throw his hat into the proverbial ring. See [Mayor Alec Baldwin?](#)

*Robert W. Wood practices law with [Wood LLP](#), in San Francisco. The author of more than 30 books, including *Taxation of Damage Awards & Settlement Payments* (4th Ed. 2009 with 2012 Supplement, [Tax Institute](#)), he can be reached at [Wood@WoodLLP.com](mailto:Wood@WoodLLP.com). This discussion is not intended as legal advice, and cannot be relied upon for any purpose without the services of a qualified professional.*