JOHNDFAUCHER.COM, ISSUE NO. 7 WINTER 2015

# The Newsletter
# Faucher & Associates

New Orleans, New Terrace, New Pinot Noir

## In 2015, Nice Trumps Naughty

### John Faucher's 2015 'Best Of' List

**Bike Ride:** Chesebro Road in Agoura to China Flat, Santa Monica National Recreation Area
**Book:** *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, by Richard Flanagan
**Concert:** L.A. Phil, Tchaikovsky at the Hollywood Bowl
**Question Asked:** "Have you ever done work in the cannabis space?" (I have now)
**Pet Story:** New guinea pig gives birth to three babies (a week after joining the family and while everyone else is away)
**Restaurant:** Commander's Palace, New Orleans
**TV Show:** *Lost*, all six seasons (glad I watched nightly instead of waiting a week between episodes)

**WINTER . . .** My wife and I have been to New Orleans many times, and we were there again in February. If you love the place, then you need regular fixes of its uniquely wonderful food, architecture and music. **Highlight:** Karen found Zydeco night at a local Rock 'n' Bowl, and the live music and dancing (yes, in a bowling alley) was the best Date Night we had this year. Nice. **Lowlight:** On an airboat tour of the swamps, Karen's sunglasses blew off and into the murky waters. I like to be chivalrous but did not jump in to retrieve them because ... alligators. Naughty.

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**SPRING . . .** Our backyard consisted mostly of a steep, rocky hill on which nothing green stayed alive, so Karen and I decided it was time to terrace the hill. Water would finally soak into the soil and sustain plants and, more important, we would have a spot for a chiminea with a view of the hills and valley below. Nine hundred plantable blocks and countless hours of labor later, our vision (and the view) is reality. I can now sit on our terrace, sipping tea (nice) or cognac (naughty) while parsing Section 469 of the Internal Revenue Code – for fun, because that's what real men do. At least real tax men.

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**SUMMER . . .** Our older daughter finished her freshman year at Rice University in Houston and came home for the summer. It was great to have her back. No summer family vacation, however: Sophie took a three-week art history course in Istanbul at the beginning of the summer so, between tuition payments and airfare to Turkey, Daddy (and Mommy) stayed close to their desks to cover the bills. Our younger daughter, Rose, is a high school sophomore who wants to be a writer, archaeologist or paleontologist. Sadly, she found no valuable bones or artifacts while our hillside was being excavated.

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**FALL . . .** Attorneys need 15 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) annually to maintain bar status. These courses cover any and all legal topics. As you may have guessed, given my legal specialization, I mostly attend dry CLEs with mind-numbingly complex titles, like "Multi-State Taxation of Flow-Through Entities," for instance. But this fall, "dry" took on a new meaning when I attended the Wine Law Forum at a winery resort in Paso Robles, Calif. "What," you may wonder, "is the relationship between the laws governing wine-making and the laws governing taxation?" This was precisely the question I, too, asked and urgently needed to answer – thus my educational pilgrimage to Paso Robles. Nice. Unfortunately, the answer is too complicated to explain in the remaining space of this newsletter. But I do recommend the 2011 Tantara Pinot Noir. Naughty?

Photo redacted for copyright issues

## THE FAQ FILE:

### WHAT WAS F&A'S BEST CASE OF THE YEAR?

A client earned $17 million in 2003 but lost his business the next year, and hasn't worked since.

His 2003 tax return had mistakes, and he owes the IRS $1 million. His house is worth that much but he owns nothing else of value. A Scrooge-like IRS agent refused to let my client refinance his house to pay off some of his tax debt, and on the last day of the 10 years the IRS had to legally foreclose on my client's house to satisfy the tax debt, the agent did so. I have never heard of an agent doing something so mean and downright naughty, but government agents have enormous discretion and immunity.

My client then faced a terrible situation: loss of his house, and no way to fight it. However, I negotiated a much nicer outcome: My client agrees he owes $1 million (he does), but the IRS cannot foreclose on his home for another 18 months, giving him a chance to sell or refinance on his terms, or make other living arrangements.

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## WELCOME TO FAUCHER & ASSOCIATES

**John D. Faucher** worked for 10 years as an IRS trial attorney. He and his team speak the legal language. They know the **tax and bankruptcy** systems and can help you get the best results. Have other legal issues? Call us. We'll find the lawyer who's right for you, your friends or family.

**818-889-8080**

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Holiday Newsletters: Naughty or Nice?

# Upholding a Rite in the U.S. Mail

**I don't get as many annual holiday letters as I used to** – you know, those summaries of your friend's or family member's year, usually with vacation photos and anything having to do with recently acquired pets.

No doubt Facebook and the Internet are rendering these missives obsolete. But I'm doing what I can to continue this American tradition, **so in this issue of The Newsletter**, you'll find out about a few of my favorite things of the year, including a trip to New Orleans, a DIY project, and a Continuing Legal Education course, plus an update on my daughters and, of course, pets. Nice.

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