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On The Docket

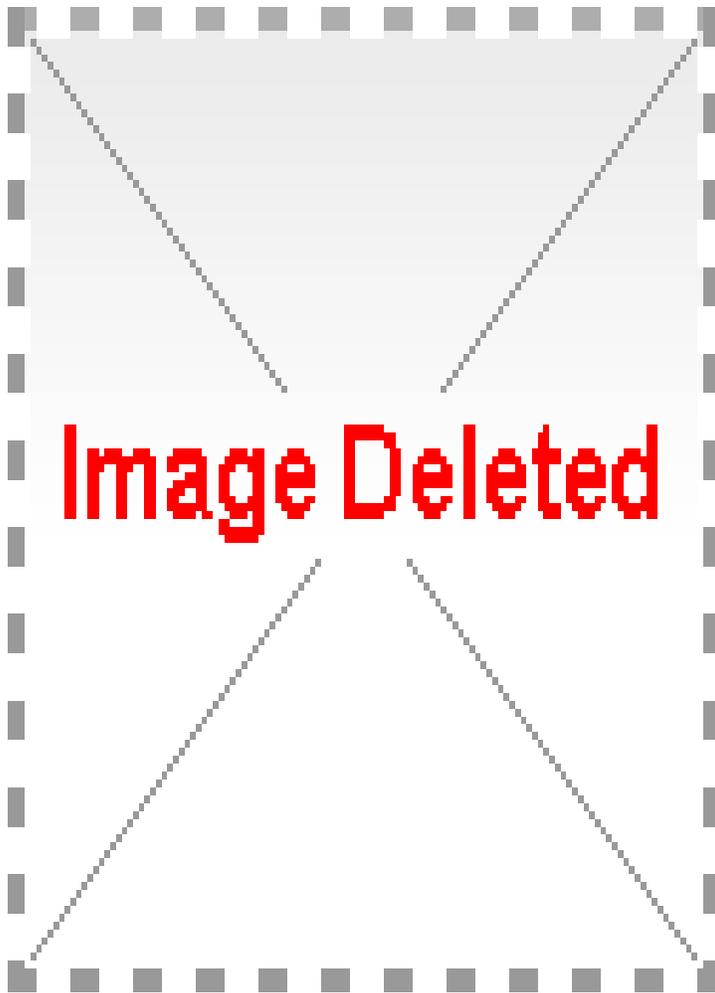
March 2015

Harris Shelton Hanover Walsh Firm News

[Billy Moss](#) was recently elected secretary of the Technology section of the Memphis Bar Association.

[Neal Graham](#) attended Overton High School's Career Day on Feb. 13 where he spoke to high school students about the legal profession.

This past month, several Harris Shelton attorneys attended the Memphis Heart Ball benefiting the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.



Jeffrey Griffin, Matthew Kirby, Sharon and Mike Goldstein, George and Debbie Wheeler, and Max Shelton at the Heart Ball on Feb. 21.

Harris Shelton in the News

[Milton 'Dee' Hobbs](#)
*Leadership in Law
Magazine*

Legal News

[What Happens If You Don't Pay Your Taxes?](#)

U.S. News & World Report

"What would happen if I just didn't pay my taxes?" That question has probably crossed your mind at least once. But rather than finding out the hard way, here are some likely outcomes. To read the full article, click the link above.

[What if the Supreme Court rules against Obamacare?](#)

POLITICO

The Supreme Court could cut off millions of Americans from affordable Obamacare coverage this June. The response from the nation's governors gathering in Washington this week was an assortment of shrugs. POLITICO interviewed more than a dozen governors, from both parties, this weekend at the National Governors Association winter meeting. Most said they're in a wait-and-see zone. The Supreme Court will hear arguments next week, the decision is likely in late June and no one can foretell how the court will rule on its second major case that could strike

Sidebar: Hidden Tax Deductions

The majority of Americans file their individual tax returns based on the Internal Revenue Services standard deduction. However, for those who aren't eligible for standard deduction or decide to itemize their taxes, the following list is for you. These are some of the most commonly missed IRS-approved deductions.

Claiming state income or sales tax. After last year, residents in 43 states (excluding Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming) were granted the option to claim the higher of the two - state and local sales taxes, or state and local income taxes. Most filers use a table provided by the IRS that shows how much residents of various states can deduct in order to help them make this decision. However, most don't know that they are also able to add the sales tax paid on a big-ticket purchase, such as a vehicle, boat or airplane, to the amount shown on the IRS table for their state.

Determining dependents. It's widely known that children can be declared dependents until the age of 19 if not in school, 24 if in school and any age if they are permanently disabled. The lesser-known fact is that parents may also be eligible to be declared dependents. According to the IRS, if a resident is providing more than half of a parent's financial support, they might be able to claim them as a dependent. If so, filers may also be able to claim their dependent parent's medical expenses when itemizing their own. There are more than 30 types of relatives that the IRS has allowances for that can be found [here](#).

Medical deductions. These are the most overlooked deductions. Eligible deductions include making home improvements per a doctor's advice, hearing aid batteries and bandage expenses, health care premiums, nursing home care, mileage to shuttle dependents back and forth to appointments and caring for a sick parent are just a few of the situations that could be deductible. However, the expenses have to exceed certain percentages of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income to be deductible.

Reinvested dividends. While reinvesting dividends isn't deductible, it can save you a lot of money. Most investors have mutual fund dividends set up to automatically buy extra shares. Each of these reinvestments increases the tax basis in the fund, which in turn reduces the taxable capital gain when shares are redeemed. If the reinvested dividends are not included in the basis, it results in double taxation of the dividends - once in the year they were paid out (and immediately reinvested) and later when they're included in the proceeds of the sale.

Knowledge is key. Whether you chose to work with a tax attorney, CPA or file at home, knowing your options before simply taking the standard deduction can help maximize your return and minimize your tax bill. To learn more, please contact [Chad Roberts](#) at croberts@harrissshelton.com.

Chad is a tax attorney who focuses his practice on federal and state tax planning, estate planning, tax audit/litigation disputes, and business planning and transactions.

at the heart of the president's signature health law. To read the full article, click the link above.

Recent Court News

[Kem Ralph, et al. v. Scruggs Farm Supply LLC, et al.](#)

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Office Locations

Downtown Memphis
One Commerce Square
40 Main St., Suite 2700
Memphis, TN 38103-2555
Phone: 901-525-1455
Fax: 901-526-4084

East Memphis
999 S. Shady Grove,
Suite 300
Memphis, TN 38120-4126
Phone: 901-682-1455
Fax: 901-682-4446

Oxford
829 N. Lamar Blvd., Suite 2
Oxford, MS 38655
Phone: 662-234-7447
Fax: 662-234-3776

Practice Areas

For information on all practice areas, [click here](#).

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Business Immigration
Commercial Litigation
Criminal Law
Environmental Law
Equine Law
Estate Planning, Probate and Trusts



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 International Law
 Labor and Employment Law
 Maritime Law
 Mediation, Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolutions
 Medical Malpractice Defense
 Municipal Law
 Personal Injury
 Product Liability
 Professional Liability Defense
 Real Estate Law
 Taxation

Community Spotlight: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis and JIFF

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis is an organization that provides supportive services and a home-away-from-home at no charge for St. Jude families and their children receiving treatment for cancer and other catastrophic illnesses. Harris Shelton's [Allison Gilbert](#) and [Matthew Kirby](#) are very involved with the organization.

On March 21, RMHCM is hosting the 14th annual Red Shoe Gala at the Columns in Downtown Memphis. This chic circus affair is complete with complimentary valet, libations, lavish food and music by the Memphis Soul Review. For more information and to purchase tickets, please [click here](#).



Juvenile Intervention & Faith-Based Follow-Up, known as JIFF, is an organization that provides youth from the juvenile justice system with the skills, support and direction necessary to move forward with a healthy future. Harris Shelton's [Jeffrey Griffin](#) serves as secretary of the board for JIFF.



On March 24, JIFF is hosting a Karaoke Night with Tony Allen at The Holiday Inn at The University of Memphis. This is a night of fun for the whole family! It gives you the chance to meet one of your favorite Grizzlies while supporting JIFF. Sponsorships and tickets

are still available, please call 901-522-8502 or email Richard@JIFFyouth.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

March 21 - [Allison Gilbert](#) will be participating in the *Memphis Business Journal's* Bizwomen Mentoring Monday. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

May 6 - [Neal Graham](#) will be speaking on "Drafting Effective Wills and Trusts" seminar presented by the National Business Institute. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

May 20 - [Billy Moss](#) will be speaking on foreclosure law at a National Business Institute seminar.

If you would like an attorney from Harris Shelton to speak at your event, please contact Margaret Vaughn at mvaughn@harrishelton.com.

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Harris Shelton Hanover Walsh, PLLC, One Commerce Square,
40 Main St., Suite 2700, Memphis, TN 38103

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