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## VOICE OF THE EDITOR

## IRS RTRP Program Put on Hold

Just when you thought we had everything sorted out for licensing tax preparers who aren't already licensed as CPAs or EAs, a judge in the US District Court for the District of Columbia **has ruled** that Congress hasn't given the IRS the authority to license preparers, and the controversial Registered Tax Return Preparer program is now on hold. So, for now, the jobs of tax preparers who can't pass the IRS exam are safe, which just means that the principles of *caveat emptor* still apply, as unsuspecting taxpayers clutching their W-2 forms walk the minefield of choosing a tax preparer.



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Today's workplace fitness exercise focuses on firming the buttocks.

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## SPONSORED LINKS

→ [New Checkpoint Learning Tax Topics webinar covers Fiscal Cliff Bill!](#)

## TAX HEADLINES

### → [Court Rules IRS Can't License Tax Return Preparers](#)

A federal court struck down the IRS's licensing effort that would have required thousands of independent tax preparers to pass a competency exam and abide by a litany of new rules.

### → [Last Shot at IRA Gifts to Charity for '12](#)

The IRS is reminding senior citizens of an eleventh-hour reprieve granted by the American Taxpayer Relief Act. Older individuals can still pull off a tax-free, IRA-to-charity transfer of funds, but only if they act by January 31.

### → [IRS Simplifies Option for Claiming Home Office Deduction](#)

The IRS announced on January 15, 2013, a simplified option that many owners of home-based businesses and some home-based workers may use to figure their deductions for the business use of their homes.

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