



ANSI Legal Issues Forum 2015

Top Legal Traps Your
Non-Profit Organization
Needs to Avoid



The Form 990 Making It Sing Your Song

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How It Came To Be

- 1941
- Revenue Act of 1950



Why Bother?

- It's The Law
- Auto Revocation For Failure To File
- Start that Statute
- Penalties
- **HUGE COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITY**



The Opportunity-Who Reads The Form 990?

- Individual/Corporate/Foundation Supporters
- Media
- IRS/Other Regulators



Put Your Best Foot Forward

- Read The Instructions
- Catch Inconsistent Responses
- Tell Your Organization's Story
- Don't Be Afraid To Explain



Where To Tell The Story?

- Part I, Line 1: Mission Statement/Most Sig Activities
- Part II, Line 1: Mission, Again
- Part III, Line 4: Stmt of Prog. Serv. Accom.
- Sup. Info Schedules



Opportunities for Careful Explanation?

- Sch. G, Part IV: Fundraising
- Sch. J, Part III: Sup Info on Comp
- Sch. L, Part V: Interested Party Trans
- Sch. N, Part III: Sup Info on Liquidations
- Sch. R, Part VII: Sup Info on Related Orgs.



The Story of O

- “To Provide Any Additional Info.”
- Wax Poetic
- Continuation Sheets OK
- Open-ended–Not Connected to Any Part Q



Questions?

