



IRS Enrolled Agent

Suzanne Weathers, Weathers & Associates



Place of Employment

Spokane, WA

Employer

Weathers & Associates

Type of Work

Tax controversy representation and resolution for clients with the IRS.

Career Pathway

1. Completed training with a national tax preparation company.
2. Prepared taxes and continued tax education.
3. Passed EA exam.
4. Continued tax law education by studying to become a USTCP.

Typical Day

My typical day starts with arriving at the office early to study for the US Tax Court Practitioner (USTCP) exam. The course that I'm enrolled in counts as credit hours of tax-related continuing education for my Enrolled Agent (EA) requirements, but—when I pass the exam—will also allow me to represent clients in tax court as a non-attorney practitioner of tax law. After two hours of study/homework (and a LOT of coffee), I switch gears and start my day at the office by checking emails, voicemail, and my calendar to prepare for the day ahead. I organize all this incoming correspondence according to importance and assign tasks to employees based on this new information. After morning touch-base meetings with my senior leadership, I get to work digging into case files. Most of my days are filled with a mixture of meetings with clients, phone calls to the IRS, networking events in the community, and in-house progress meetings.

What I Love About My Job

I say that taxes are my love language (and it usually gets a polite chuckle), but fixing tax problems and relieving tax-related burdens for clients is genuinely my happy place.

Most Important Skills Needed

- Detail-oriented
- Basic accounting concepts and applied mathematics
- Analytical thinking and problem solving
- Interpersonal communication

Science and Engineering Practices I Use

- Problem finding
- Finding & validating evidence
- Forming investigatory questions
- Collaboration to solve complex problems

Technology and Equipment I Use

- Tax preparation software
- Accounting/bookkeeping software
- Tax law/reference materials

Education Background Needed

Five years of tax interpretation experience that directly relies on tax code understanding OR passing of a three-part, tax code exam that illustrates understanding and ability to interpret and apply the code to specific situations. Many EAs have degrees in Accounting, Finance, Economics, or other Business-related fields.