



## Robert W. Wood

THE TAX LAWYER

TAXES 7/23/2015

# 19 Facts On IRS Targeting President Obama Can't Blame On Republicans

On The Daily Show, President Obama blamed Republicans for the IRS scandal:

"You've got this back office, and they're going after the Tea Party. Well, it turned out, no, Congress had passed a crummy law that didn't give people guidance in terms of what it was they were trying to do. They did it poorly and stupidly. The truth of the matter is that there was not some big conspiracy there. They were trying to sort out these conflicting demands. You don't want all this money pouring through non-for- profits, but you also want to make sure everybody is being treated fairly."

Really, Mr. President? For effect, perhaps he should reprise his testy "not even a smidgen of corruption" remark to [Fox News](#). The President keeps claiming there is *no* evidence the IRS was used for political targeting. You be the judge:



*U.S. President Barack Obama speaks with Jon Stewart, host of The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, during a taping of the show in New York, July 21, 2015. The appearance marks Obama's third time on the show as President, and seventh overall, with Stewart leaving the program on August 6. (SAUL LOEB/AFP/Getty Images)*

1. In January 2010, the Supreme Court in [Citizens United](#) held it unconstitutional to ban free speech by corporations, unions and other organizations.
2. In August 2010, the IRS [distributed a BOLO](#) (Be on the Lookout) list for Tea Party organizations applying for tax exempt status.
3. In October 2010, IRS Exempt Organization chief Lois Lerner met with the DOJ about prosecuting conservative groups.
4. By March 2012, amid reports of targeting, [former IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman testifies](#) there is “absolutely no targeting” by the IRS of conservative and/or Tea Party organizations. On November 9, 2012, [Mr. Shulman stepped down](#), replaced by Steven Miller.
5. On May 10, 2013, during a bar meeting, Ms. Lerner admits targeting, calling it “absolutely incorrect, insensitive, and inappropriate.” Four days later, on May 14, 2013, the Inspector General [issued a report](#) confirming targeting.
6. On May 15, 2013, Acting IRS Commissioner [Steven Miller resigned](#). President Obama named [Daniel Werfel](#) Acting Commissioner. Mr. Miller and Inspector General J. Russell George [testified to the House Ways and Means Committee](#).
7. On May 22, 2013, Ms. Lerner professed her innocence then [takes the Fifth](#). Next day, she is placed on [administrative leave](#).
8. On June 12, 2013, the IRS *finally suspends* BOLO lists for Tea Party names.
9. On June 20, 2013, the IRS paid \$70 million in bonuses. Ms. Lerner receives \$42,000; former Commissioner Miller receives \$100,000.
10. On June 24, 2013, the IRS admitted that “inappropriate criteria” were used for tax-exempt status. Next day, Democrats claim progressives were targeted too.
11. On September 24, 2013, Ms. Lerner’s retirement is announced, with full pension.
12. On February 3, 2014, President Obama tells Fox there’s “[not a smidgen of corruption](#)” at the IRS.
13. On March 11, 2014, the Committee on House Oversight and Reform [issues a report](#) on Lois Lerner.
14. On April 7, 2014, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen confirms there are [six investigations](#): four by Congressional committees, one by the DOJ, one by the TIGTA. Over 250 IRS employees spend 100,000 hours, costing taxpayers at least \$14 million.
15. On April 8, 2014, the Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform says it will pursue contempt charges against Ms. Lerner. On May 7, 2014, the House of Representatives holds Ms. Lerner in contempt of Congress.
16. On June 13, 2014 (Friday the 13th!), the IRS *first* says it lost Ms. Lerner’s emails from 2009 to 2011. The IRS says hard drives and backups are destroyed, for 6 other IRS employees’ too. The IRS spent \$10 million trying to recover them.

17. On September 22, 2014, Ms. Lerner breaks silence to [Politico](#), says *she* is the victim.
18. In November-December 2014, the Inspector General recovers 30,000 backed up Lerner emails.
19. On March 31, 2015, Obama Justice Department officials announce there will be [no criminal charges for Lois Lerner](#).

*For alerts to future tax articles, follow me on Forbes. You can reach me at [Wood@WoodLLP.com](mailto:Wood@WoodLLP.com). This discussion is not intended as legal advice, and cannot be relied upon for any purpose without the services of a qualified professional.*