

Why do I Value Being an Enrolled Agent?

I've been in practice since 1982. I earned my designation in 1997. Out of all of my designations (BS, PhD) I cannot really express to you how valuable being an EA is to me. It gives me an opportunity to help so many of my clients. When I call the Internal Revenue Service, I get R E S P E C T, because so many of the employees only have on the job experience. I have had many of them say to me that they would not be able to pass such an exam. I passed after two sittings.

Just last week I was able to help a client that was referred to me. The person that prepared his return was not an enrolled agent, therefore, he had limitations. The bank had a "hold" on his account because of a levy that was ignored. I just made the usual call, arranged for an installment agreement and the levy was released immediately, but he thought I had just given him a million dollars. His comment was: "I will be back to have 2007 file".

Mary F. D. Williams, EA, PhD
Williams Tax Service, Inc.
Summerville, SC

1. As an Enrolled Agent I can represent taxpayers with unlimited ability. With an industry that is mostly unregulated, those of us who are EA's have the honor and burden of representing taxpayers before IRS and State tax departments in capacities that unenrolled preparers are not permitted to represent.
2. As an Enrolled Agent I have practice areas open to me that unenrolled preparers don't have - Examination and Collection divisions are my playground. I have a lucrative practice in those divisions of the IRS.
3. As an Enrolled Agent I have voluntarily chosen to submit myself to a higher standard of practice than the unenrolled preparer. This is an ongoing commitment to excellence on my part that my clients see and appreciate. That translates into higher fees my clients willingly pay.

Steven Katz EA
Dr. Tax
Vail AZ

Being an EA permits me to provide full service to my clients. In our current compliance climate, being able to fully represent a client is essential to a full service operation.

Kathryn M. Keane, EA, ABA
Macánta Business Services
Brooklyn, NY

Being an enrolled agent is a testament to my abilities in the world of taxation. I feel it is an elite status available to only those who possess the knowledge to be among the best tax practitioners in the industry. The designation holds us, the practitioners, to a higher standard than unenrolled tax preparers through the application of Circular 230 rules and regulations and, as such, is a source of pride in our professionalism. In the practical sense, it allows me to provide my clients with services the unenrolled preparer cannot make available to his or her clients such as audit or exam representation at the same time that the clients know that they are affiliated with the experts in the field of taxation.

Sherry Diamond, EA
President, The Tax Stop Inc.
Cherry Hill NJ

It will save me time when the government makes licensing a requirement. Plus when I tell people what an EA is (only designation issued by the US Government, they think CPA's are also), they are quite impressed. I work very hard "preaching the gospel" about what an EA is.

Jeffrey A. Schneider, EA, CDFA
Qualified Intermediary for §1031 Exchanges
SFS Tax and Accounting Services
Royal Palm Beach, FL
Port St. Lucie, FL

I value being an enrolled agent because it validates my professional abilities. The designation Enrolled Agent is proof that I have demonstrated expertise in all areas of federal taxation to the high standards of the Internal Revenue Service, and that I deserve the recognition of my knowledge and professionalism. This is a status that is worthy of those of us with professional competence, so that we are set apart from all of the tax practitioners who prepare some returns on the side, or out of some storefront. There is no other level of overall competence in tax preparation that can be verified or instill public confidence outside of CPA's, and their income tax knowledge is sometimes limited.

Besides all of the above, we can prove our worth with this designation without the benefit of a college degree, usually required for CPA status.

Gloria S. Kuhn, EA
Middletown, NY
