HAGAN, TUCKER, SCHMITT & GINTZ LLC

CPAs+ADVISORS

# **ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

Dear Client,

Hagan, Tucker, Schmitt & Gintz, LLC is pleased to provide your company with the professional services described below. This letter, and the attached *Terms and Conditions Addendum* and any other attachments incorporated herein (collectively, "Agreement"), confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature and limitations of the services we will provide. The engagement between you and our firm will be governed by the terms of this Agreement.

# **Engagement Objective and Scope**

We will prepare the following 2019 federal and state income tax returns:

(Please check appropriate box.)

- □ Corporation
- □ S-Corporation
- □ Partnership/LLC
- □ Exempt/Fiduciary

We will not prepare any tax returns except those identified above, without your written request, and our written consent to do so. We will prepare your tax returns based upon information and representations that you provide to us. We have not been engaged to and will not prepare financial statements. We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit to us, although we may ask you to clarify certain information.

We will prepare the above referenced tax returns solely for filing with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") and state and local tax authorities as identified above. Our work is not intended to benefit or influence any third party, either to obtain credit or for any other purpose.

You agree to indemnify and hold our firm and its partners, principals, shareholders, officers, directors, members, employees, agents or assigns (collectively, "firm," "we," "us," or "our") harmless with respect to any and all claims arising from the use of the tax returns for any purpose other than filing with the IRS and state and local tax authorities regardless of the nature of the claim, including the negligence of any party.

Our engagement does not include any procedures designed to detect errors, fraud, or theft. Therefore, our engagement cannot be relied upon to disclose such matters.

This engagement is limited to the professional services outlined above.

# **CPA Firm Responsibilities**

Unless otherwise noted, we will perform our services in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Tax Services ("SSTS") issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") and U.S. Treasury Department Circular 230 ("Circular 230"). It is our duty to perform services with the same standard of care that a reasonable income tax preparer would exercise in this type of engagement. It is your responsibility to safeguard your assets and maintain accurate records pertaining to transactions. We will not hold your property in trust for you, or otherwise accept fiduciary duties in the performance of the engagement.

## **Bookkeeping assistance**

We may deem it necessary to provide you with accounting and bookkeeping assistance solely for the purpose of preparing the income tax returns. These services will be performed solely in accordance with the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct. We will request your approval in writing before rendering these services. Additional charges will apply for such services.

# Estimated tax payments

You may be required to make quarterly estimated tax payments. We will calculate these payments for the 2020 tax year based upon the information you provide to prepare your 2019 tax returns and have no obligation to update recommended payments after the engagement is completed. If you ask us to update your estimated tax payments, we will confirm this in a separate engagement letter.

## Tax planning services

Our engagement does not include tax planning services. During the course of preparing the tax returns identified above, we may bring to your attention potential tax savings strategies for you to consider as a possible means of reducing your taxes in subsequent tax years. However, we have no responsibility to do so, and will take no action with respect to such recommendations, as the responsibility for implementation remains with you, the taxpayer. If you ask us to provide tax planning services, we will confirm this representation in a separate engagement letter.

## **Government inquiries**

This engagement does not include responding to inquiries by any governmental agency or tax authority. If your tax return is selected for examination or audit, you may request our assistance in responding to such an inquiry. If you ask us to represent you, we will confirm this representation in a separate engagement letter.

## **Client Responsibilities**

You will provide us with a trial balance and other supporting data needed to prepare your tax returns. You must provide us with accurate and complete information. Income from all sources, including those outside of the U.S., is required.

We rely upon the accuracy and completeness of both the information you provide in the trial balance and other supporting data you provide in rendering professional services to you.

#### On-line access to information

To the extent you provide our firm with access to electronic data via a local or online database from which we will download your trial balance or other information, you agree that the data is accurate as of the date and time you authorize it to be downloaded.

#### **Documentation**

You are responsible for maintaining adequate documentation to substantiate the accuracy and completeness of your tax returns. You should retain all documents that provide evidence and support for reported income, credits, and deductions on your returns, as required under applicable tax laws and regulations. You are responsible for the adequacy of all information provided in such documents. You represent that you have such documentation and can produce it if needed, to respond to any audit or inquiry by tax authorities. You agree to hold harmless our firm and its partners, principals, shareholders, officers, directors, members, employees, agents or assigns with respect to any additional tax, penalties, or interest imposed upon you by tax authorities resulting from the disallowance of tax deductions due to inadequate documentation.

## Personal expenses

You are responsible for ensuring that personal expenses, if any, are segregated from business expenses and that expenses such as meals, travel, entertainment, vehicle use, gifts, and related expenses are supported by necessary records required by the IRS and other tax authorities. At your written request, we are available to provide you with written answers to your questions on the types of supporting records required.

# State and local filing obligations

You are responsible for determining your tax filing obligations with any state or local tax authorities, including, but not limited to, income, franchise, sales, use, property or unclaimed property taxes. You agree that we have no responsibility to research these obligations or to inform you of them. If upon review of the information you have provided to us, along with information that comes to our attention, we believe you may have additional filing obligations, we will notify you of this responsibility in writing and ask you to contact us. If you ask us to prepare these returns, we will confirm this representation in a separate engagement letter.

# U.S. filing obligations related to foreign financial assets

As part of your filing obligations, you are required to report the maximum value of specified foreign financial assets, which include financial accounts with foreign institutions and certain other foreign non-account investment assets that exceed certain thresholds. You are responsible for informing us of all foreign assets, so we may properly advise you regarding your filing obligations.

These assets include any ownership interests you directly or indirectly hold in businesses located in a foreign country, and any assets or financial accounts located in a foreign country over which you have signature authority. Based upon the information you provide, this information will be used to calculate any applicable foreign tax credits. We will also use this data to inform you of any additional filing requirements, which may include FinCEN *Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts* ("FBAR"). Failure to file required forms can result in the imposition of both civil and criminal penalties, which may be significant. The FBAR is not a tax return and its preparation is not within the scope of this engagement. If you ask us to prepare the FBAR, we will confirm this representation in a separate engagement letter.

# Foreign filing obligations

You are responsible for complying with the tax filing requirements of any other country. You acknowledge and agree that we have no responsibility to raise these issues with you and that foreign filing obligations are not within the scope of this engagement.

#### Ultimate responsibility

You have final responsibility for your income tax returns. We will provide you with a copy of your electronic income tax returns and accompanying schedules and statements for review prior to filing with the IRS and state and local tax authorities (as applicable). You agree to review and examine them carefully for accuracy and completeness.

You will be required to verify and sign a completed *IRS e-file Signature Authorization* and any similar state and local equivalent authorization form before your returns can be filed electronically.

In the event that you do not wish to have your income tax returns filed electronically, please contact our firm. Additional procedures will apply. You will be responsible for reviewing the paper returns for accuracy, signing them, and filing them timely with the tax authorities.

## Penalties and Interest Charges

Federal, state, and local tax authorities impose various penalties and interest charges for non-compliance with tax laws and regulations, including failure to file or late filing of returns, and underpayment of taxes. You, as the taxpayer, remain responsible for the payment of all tax, penalties, and interest charges imposed by tax authorities.

We rely on the accuracy and completeness of the information you provide to us in connection with the preparation of your tax returns. Failure to disclose or inadequate disclosure of income or tax positions may result.

The IRS permits you to authorize us to discuss, on a limited basis, aspects of your return for one year after the return's due date. Your consent to such a discussion is evidenced by checking a box on the return. Unless you request otherwise, we will check that box authorizing the IRS to discuss your return with us. Should we receive any request for the disclosure of privileged information from any third party, including a subpoena of IRS summons, we will notify you. In the event you direct us not to make the disclosure, you agree to hold us harmless from any expenses incurred in defending the privilege, including, by way of illustration only, our attorney's fees, court costs, outside advisor's costs, or penalties or fines imposed as a result of your asserting the privilege or your direction to us to assert the privilege.

# **Professional Fees**

Our fee for these services will be based upon the amount of time required at standard billing rates. All invoices are due and payable upon presentation. A finance charge of 1.5 percent per month will be assessed on any unpaid balance after deduction of current payment, credits, and allowances made within 30 days of date of billing. This is an annual percentage rate of 18 percent.

In the event of a dispute related in any way to our services, our firm and you agree to discuss the dispute and, if necessary, promptly mediate in a good faith effort to resolve. We will agree on a mediator, but if we cannot, either of us may apply to a court having personal jurisdiction over the parties for appointment of a mediator. We will share the mediator's fees and expenses equally, but otherwise will bear our own attorneys' fees and mediation costs. Participation in such mediation shall be a condition to either of us initiating litigation. In order to allow time for mediation, any applicable statute of limitations shall be tolled for a period not to exceed 120 days from the date either of us first requests in writing to mediate the dispute. The mediation shall be admissible in litigation solely to determine the prevailing party's identity for purposes of the award of attorney's fees.

We have the right to withdraw from this engagement, at our discretion, if you don't provide us with any information we request in a timely manner, refuse to cooperate with our reasonable requests, or misrepresent any facts. Our withdrawal will release us from any obligation to complete your return and will constitute completion of our engagement. You agree to compensate us for our time and out-of-pocket expenses through the date of our withdrawal.

If the foregoing fairly sets forth your understanding, please sign below in the space provided and return to our office. We will not start processing any return without a signed engagement letter.

We want to express our appreciation for this opportunity to work with you.

Entity Name:	
Signed:	
Title:	Date: