In the matter of:

[Redacted], LLC

Contact: [Redacted], LLC

FINAL RULING NO. 2011-62
July 28, 2011

Protest of Denial of Tangible Personal Property Ad Valorem Tax Refund Requests for 2007 and 2008 Tax Years

FINAL RULING

The Kentucky Department of Revenue ("DOR") has denied the refund requests of [Redacted], LLC's ("[Redacted]") that are based upon the exclusion from its tangible personal ad valorem tax assessments for these years of costs related to the development of its company website.

[Redacted] requested refunds for the 2007 and 2008 tax years by submitting amended tangible personal property tax returns for those years asserting that costs related to the development of a company website was inadvertently and erroneously included in the property tax listing on these returns for the years 2007 and 2008. DOR denied the request; its position was that the original returns were correctly filed and the costs related to the development of the company website, including the photography and logo, were correctly reported as the cost of tangible personal property subject to ad valorem taxation.

DOR has granted [Redacted] extensions in letters dated [Redacted], 2010 and [Redacted], 2011. However, [Redacted] has failed to submit any documentation that would allow the DOR a basis for reconsideration of its denial of [Redacted]'s refund request.
All tangible personal property must be assessed for ad valorem taxation at its fair cash value unless an exemption provided for in, or authorized by the Kentucky Constitution applies. Ky. Const. § 172; KRS 132.190(3); 132.820(1). The assessments in question are presumed to be valid and correct and it is the taxpayer's burden to prove otherwise. Revenue Cabinet v. Gillig, 957 S.W.2d 206 (Ky. 1997); Walter G. Houglend & Sons v. McCracken County Board of Supervisors, 306 Ky. 234, 206 S.W.2d 951 (1947). [Redacted] has not provided any proof that the values reported on its original returns were incorrect or that those reflected on its amended returns were correct.

Therefore, the DOR properly denied [Redacted]'s refund request based upon its amended tangible personal property ad valorem tax returns for 2007 and 2008.

This letter is the final ruling of the DOR.

APPEAL

You may appeal this final ruling to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals pursuant to the provisions of KRS 131.110, KRS 131.340-131.365, 103 KAR 1:010 and 802 KAR 1:010. If you decide to appeal this final ruling, your petition of appeal must be filed at the principal office of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, 128 Brighton Park Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3714, within thirty (30) days from the date of this final ruling. The rules of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, which are set forth in 802 KAR 1:010, require that the petition of appeal must:

1. Be filed in quintuplicate;
2. Contain a brief statement of the law and facts in issue;
3. Contain the petitioner's or appellant's position as to the law and facts; and
4. Include a copy of this final ruling with each copy of the petition of appeal.

The petition of appeal must be in writing and signed by the petitioner or appellant. Filings by facsimile or other electronic means shall not be accepted.

Proceedings before the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals are conducted in accordance with 103 KAR 1:010, 802 KAR 1:010 and KRS 131.340-131.365 and KRS Chapter 13B. Formal hearings are held by the Board concerning the tax appeals before it, with all testimony and proceedings officially reported. Legal representation of parties to appeals before the Board is governed by the following rules set forth in Section 3 of 802 KAR 1:010:

1. An individual may represent himself in any proceedings before the Board where his individual tax liability is at issue or he may obtain an attorney to represent him in those proceedings;
2. An individual who is not an attorney may not represent any other individual or legal entity in any proceedings before the Board;

3. Any party appealing a final ruling to the Board other than an individual, such as a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, estate or other legal entity, shall be represented by an attorney in all proceedings before the Board, including the filing of the petition of appeal; and

4. An attorney who is not licensed to practice in Kentucky may practice before the Board only if he complies with Rule 3.030(2) of the Rules of the Kentucky Supreme Court.

You will be notified by the Clerk of the Board of the date and time set for any hearing.

Sincerely,

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CABINET

E. Jeffrey Mosley

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Interim Executive Director
Office of Legal Services for Revenue