

**Problems and Assignments for a Course in  
The Taxation of Partnerships  
To Accompany the Logic of Subchapter K, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition**

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## Chapter One Choice of Entity

### I. What is a Partnership for Tax Purposes?

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter One, pp. 1-4 & 15-17

**Code:** §§ 701, 761(a), 7701(a)(2) & (3). Skim §§ 702, 703(b), 706 (a) and 7704.  
See also § 1411.

**Regulations:** §§ 1.761-1(a)-(c), -2(a).

**Optional Reading:** *Commissioner v. Culbertson*, 337 U.S. 733 (1949)

**Question:** *A* and *B* purchase unimproved land as cotenants. In each of the following alternatives, determine whether *A* and *B* have created an “entity” for tax purposes:

- a. They hold the land for appreciation;
- b. They lease the land to *Z* who uses the land for farming;
- c. They construct a motel on the land and hire *C* to manage the motel for them.

### II. Choice of Entity

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter One, pp. 4 – 15

**Code:** §§ 701, 761(a) & 7704. See also § 1411.

**Regulations:** §§ 301.7701-1(a), -2(a) & (b), and -3(a) & (b)(1) and -4(a) & (b).

**Note:** The enactment of § 199A in 2017, significantly impacted the decision of the entity taxpayers choose to operate their ventures. Under this provision, some, but not all, unincorporated businesses are given a deduction for 20% of their “qualified business income.” For purposes of this problem, assume that the business would qualify. We will examine § 199A in more detail below.

*Question on the next page*

**Question:** *A, B and C* have decided to leave their current positions as software designers in a large company and to start up their own firm. *A* and *B* have been very successful and are now quite wealthy. *C*, on the other hand, is a brilliant young programmer who is still paying off student loans. Although *A* and *B* both plan to invest capital in the new firm, they hope to eventually attract additional outside investors. They have come to you for advice in setting up their new venture. What are their options in choosing a business entity, and what considerations should they take into account in making that choice?

### **III. Introduction to Section 199A**

#### **Assignment:**

**Logic:**            *Review* Chapter One, pp. 8 - 15

**Code:**            § 199A(a) – (e)(1) & (f)(1)(A). See also § 1202(e)(3).

#### **Questions:**

1. In each of the following cases, please determine if the Taxpayer is entitled to a Qualified Business Deduction (“QBD”) and, if so, in what amount:
  - a. Plumber works for herself and has net earnings from her business of \$100K. She has no employees.
  - b. Suppose Plumber goes to work for an unrelated plumbing company and is paid a salary of \$100K.
  - c. Lawyer, who is single, works as a solo practitioner and has net earnings of \$150K. She does not have a staff nor has she made a significant capital investment in her practice.
  - d. Doctor works as a solo practitioner and has net earnings from her practice of \$500K. In addition to her other expenses, Doctor pays her staff wages of \$150K.
  - e. Architect works for herself and has net earnings of \$500K for the year. In addition to her other expenses, Architect pays her staff wages of \$150K. She has not yet invested in any “qualified property.”
  - f. Engineer is single and works for herself. This year she has net earnings of \$182,500. Engineer paid her assistant \$50,000 and has not invested in any qualified property.
  - g. Real Estate Mogul earns a net \$5 million in rental income from his various properties. In addition to his other expenses, Mogul pays his staff wages of \$500K. Mogul’s unadjusted basis in his rental properties is \$50 million.

2. Husband (H) and Wife (W) are both lawyers and practice law together. In each of the following alternatives, please determine if they are entitled to QBD for 2018 and if so, in what amount.

- (a) In 2018 they have net income from their practice of \$240,000 and their joint taxable income for the year is \$315,000. The expenses they incurred in their practice include \$80,000 of W-2 wages.
- (b) How would your answer to (a) change if their taxable income were \$700,000 for 2018?
- (c) ***Do only if specifically assigned.*** How would your answer to (a) change if their taxable income were \$340,000 for 2018?

## Chapter Two Partnership Formation

### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Two and skim pages 47 – 55 of Chapter Four

### Code & Regulations:

**Problem 1:** Code §§ 704(c)(1)(A), 721, 722, 723, 724, 1223(1) & (2), 1245(b)(3), 7701(a)(42) - (45); Regs. §§ 1.721-1(a), 1.722-1, 1.723-1, 1223-3(b)(1). Glance at § 704(c)(1)(C).

**Problem 2:** Code §§ 704(c)(3), 731(a), (b), (c)(1), 733, 752(a) & (b); Reg. §§ 1.752-1(a) - (f), 1.752-2(a).

**Optional Reading:** *Stafford v. United States*, 611 F.2d 990 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1980);  
*Oden v. Commissioner*, 410 TCM 1285 (1981).

### Problems:

1. A, B and C, three individuals, form a general partnership by contributing the following property in exchange for equal 1/3 interests in the partnership's capital, profits, and losses:

A contributes land, a capital asset that A acquired several years ago, worth \$100 in which A has a tax basis of \$40.

B contributes machinery with a basis of \$25 and a value of \$60, plus \$40 in cash. B purchased the machinery several years ago for \$75 and has taken \$50 of depreciation.

C contributes inventory with a value of \$100 in which C has a basis of \$90.

- (a) What gain and/or loss will be recognized by the partners and the partnership on formation?
- (b) What will be the partnership's "inside basis" and holding period for each of the contributed assets?
- (c) What will be the partners' "outside bases" and holding period for their partnership interests?

(d) Construct an opening balance sheet for ABC. Your balance sheet should be in the following form:

<i>Assets</i>		<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>		
	<u><i>Basis</i></u>	<u><i>Book</i></u>		
Cash	\$	\$		
Other assets				
			<i>Liabilities</i>	
			<i>Capital</i>	
			<i>Accounts</i>	
			<u><i>Tax</i></u>	<u><i>Book</i></u>
			\$	\$
			A	
			B	
			C	

2. D, E and F form a partnership by contributing the following property (in each case worth \$200 net of liabilities) in exchange for equal 1/3 interests in the partnership's capital, profits and losses. The partnership assumes all liabilities encumbering the contributed assets.

D contributes land with a fair market value of \$400, which is encumbered by a recourse mortgage of \$240. D has held the land for several years as an investment, and his basis in the land is \$100. D also contributes \$40 in cash.

E contributes a building, a § 1231 asset, with a value of \$260 in which E has an adjusted basis of \$130. The building was purchased several years ago by E and is subject to a recourse mortgage \$60.

F, a cash method taxpayer, contributes zero basis accounts receivable from his business worth \$350, and assigns his accounts payable of \$150 to the partnership.

**NOTE:** For purposes of this problem, ignore the possibility that there might be a disguised sale, assume that DEF uses the traditional method for making § 704(c) allocations, and finally assume that for purposes of § 752 the partners share all partnership liabilities equally.

(a) With respect to each partner,

(i) Is any gain or loss recognized?

(ii) What is her outside basis?

(b) With respect to DEF:

(1) Does it recognize any gain or loss on formation?

(2) What is its inside basis in the contributed property?

(c) Construct an opening balance sheet for the partnership similar to the one you constructed in Problem 1(d), above.

(d) How would the consequences to D differ, if, instead of contributing the \$40 of cash, D contributed her own negotiable promissory note for \$40, bearing adequate stated interest?

## Chapter Three Partnership Operations

### Part A. Taxable Years and Methods of Accounting

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Three, pp. 33-39

**Code:** §§ 448(a) – (c), 706(a) & (b). Skim §§ 444, 7519.

**Regulations:** §§ 1.706-1(a), (b)(1)-(3); 1.448-1T(f)(2).

#### Problems:

1. A, B, and C Corp. form the ABC partnership. A and B are individual, cash method, calendar year taxpayers. C Corp. is a small corporation that, over the last three years, has had average annual gross receipts in excess of \$30 million. C Corp. is an accrual method taxpayer using a June 30 fiscal year. The partners share profits, losses and capital equally.

- a. The ABC partnership must choose a taxable year. If there were no constraints on this choice, what taxable year would you expect A to favor? C Corp.?
- b. What is ABC's "required taxable year" within the meaning of § 444(e)?
- c. ABC must also choose a method of accounting. Is it permitted to elect to use the cash method of accounting?

2. **Do only if expressly assigned:** X, Y and Z form a partnership. X is a corporation with a 7/31 fiscal year, Y is a corporation with a 1/31 fiscal year, and Z is a calendar year individual. What is the partnership's required taxable year if the partners share profits and capital in the following alternative proportions:

- a. 60% X, 20% Y, 20% Z
- b. 50% X, 30% Y, 20% Z
- c. Assume the XYZ partnership's principal business activity is the preparation of tax returns. What taxable year might it prefer? Is that choice available to it?



## Part B. The Basics of Taxing Partnership Operations

### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Three, pp. 39 - 46

**Code:** §§ 701, 702, 703, 704(a), 705(a), 706(a), 724. Skim § 6031.

**Regulations:** §§ 1.702-1(a)(8), (b), 1.705-1(a), 1.706-1(a), 1.731-1(a)(1)(ii).

### Problem:

The AB partnership, a cash method, calendar year partnership, had the following income and expenses for the past calendar year:

(1) Gross income from business operations	\$130
(2) Expenses deductible under § 162(a)	40
(3) Depreciation on machinery (calculated under the 200% declining balance method)	30
(4) Charitable gifts	20
(5) Gain on sale of equipment used in the partnership business, \$20 of which is ordinary under § 1245(a), and \$10 of which is §1231 gain	30
(6) Short-term capital gain on stock sale	10
(7) Interest on tax exempt bonds	40
(8) Dividends on stock	20
(9) Gain on the sale of land held for 4 years by the partnership for investment purposes	100

A and B are equal partners who use the cash method and the calendar year.

1. How will the partnership, A and B report these items?
2. Would the treatment of the gain in item (9) be different if A were a dealer in real estate? Assume, in the alternative, that the partnership acquired the land (i) from A as a contribution to the partnership, or (ii) by purchase from a third party.

3. A's adjusted basis for his partnership interest was \$20 at the beginning of this taxable year of the partnership. What would be her adjusted basis at the end of the year if the partnership made no distributions to the partners during the year?

4. How would your answer in question 3 differ if on March 1 the partnership distributed \$40 to each of the partners?

## Chapter Four Capital Accounts

### Assignment:

**Logic:**            *Review carefully* Chapter Four

**Code:**            §§ 704(b), (c)(1)(A), 721(a), 722, 723, 752(a) & (b).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(a)-(i); 1.704-1(b)(4)(i), 1.752-1(d), (e).

### Problem 1:

**Basic Facts:** *A* and *B* are partners in a newly-formed cash method general partnership. They will share profits and losses equally (although their capital accounts may not always be equal). The partnership will maintain capital accounts in accordance with Reg. § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv). The partners share recourse liabilities equally.

Prepare an opening balance sheet for the partnership (including tax capital accounts), reflecting the formation transaction described in part A below, and then determine the appropriate adjustments to the partners' capital accounts for each of the operating transactions described in part B below. There is no reason to keep a running balance. After determining the appropriate capital account adjustments for each of the transactions, you might want to consider what effect each of the transactions would have on *A's* and *B's* bases in their partnership interests.

#### A. Formation Transaction.

A contributes to the partnership:

	<u>Basis</u>	<u>FMV</u>
Cash	\$50	\$50
Land (encumbered by a \$100 recourse mortgage that the partnership assumes)	100	200

B contributes to the partnership

B's own note for \$50 payable in 5 years bearing interest at the AFR	0	50
X's note payable to B	50	50
Equipment	75	100

**B. Operating Transactions:**

1. The partnership earns \$600 of ordinary income under § 702(a)(8).
2. The partnership receives \$100 of bond interest that is tax exempt under §103
3. The partnership recognizes a \$40 capital loss. Assume that A's current deduction for the loss is disallowed by § 1211, whereas B's share of the loss is currently deductible by him in full.
4. The partnership incurs \$20 of nondeductible and noncapitalized expenditures described in § 705(a)(2)(B) (e.g., "key man" term life insurance policies on the lives of partners, of which the partnership is the owner and beneficiary).
5. The partnership borrows \$100 from a bank.
6. Subsequently, A assumes full liability for the \$100 bank debt in #5 above, and the bank releases the partnership from liability for the amount.
7. The partnership pays off the \$100 bank debt previously assumed by A in #6.
8. The partnership pays off the mortgage encumbering the land contributed by A.
9. The partnership purchases common stock for \$50. During the year the stock appreciates to \$100, and the partnership distributes it to A.
10. The partnership purchases land for \$200 by paying \$100 cash and giving the seller a \$100 recourse purchase-money mortgage. While the land is still worth \$200, the partnership distributes it to A, subject to the mortgage. Does your answer depend upon whether A formally assumes the liability and whether the partnership is released by the lender?
11. The partnership distributes to B its promissory note payable to B in a later year (\$100 face amount with interest at the applicable federal rate).

## Problem 2: Revaluations

The XYZ partnership has been operating for several years. All of its assets were purchased by the partnership, and at the end of the current year it's balance sheet, which has been expanded to show the current fair market value of assets and capital, is as follows:

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>		
	<u><i>AB/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>	<i>Liabilities</i>		
Cash	\$600	\$600	None		
Accts. Rec.	0	200			
Equipment	100	200			
Stock	500	1000			
Land	<u>300</u>	<u>1000</u>			
<b>Total</b>	\$1500	\$3000			
				<i>Capital</i>	
				<i>Accounts</i>	
				<u><i>Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>
			X	\$500	\$1000
			Y	500	1000
			Z	<u>500</u>	<u>1000</u>
				\$1500	\$3000

On the last day of the current year, W joins the partnership. In exchange for a contribution of \$1000 cash, she receives a 25% interest in partnership profits, losses, and capital.

1. Reconstruct the balance sheet of the partnership following W's admission to the partnership, assuming, in the alternative:

- The partnership does not elect to revalue its assets under § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(f), or
- The partnership does elect to revalue its assets under the regulations.

2. If W had purchased X's interest in the partnership instead of acquiring an interest through a contribution to the partnership, would the partnership be permitted to revalue its assets under the regulations? Why or why not?

## **Chapter Five**

### **Substantial Economic Effect**

**Assignment:**

**Logic:** Chapter Five

**NOTE:** Chapter Five is a long chapter. For background read pp. 65 - 71; for Problems 1(a) – (c) focus on pp. 71 - 86; for Problems 2, 3, and 1(d) focus on pp. 86 - 96; and for Problems 4 and 5 focus on pp. 96 - 104.

**Code:** §§ 704(a) & (b), 761(c)

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-1(b)(1), (2) [omit (iv)(e), (j)-(q)], (3), & (4)(i)

**Recommended Reading:** *Orrisch v. Commissioner*, 55 T.C. 395 (1970).

#### **Introductory Note.**

The general idea behind § 704(a) is simple to state: partners are free to define their business relationship as they see fit. In principle, how they assign the risks and rewards of the partnership business among themselves is none of the government's business. Their assignment of the risks and rewards is legally fixed in the contract that controls their relationship: the partnership agreement. The tax law will respect their economic arrangement embodied in the partnership agreement.

The general idea behind § 704(b) also is simple to state: allocations of the partnership's tax items – income, gain, deduction, and loss – must conform to the partners' economic arrangement. To the extent that the allocations do not, the tax items will be reallocated so as to conform to the economic arrangement. This idea is succinctly expressed in Reg. § 1.704-1(b)(2)(i)(a):

*Fundamental principles.* In order for an allocation to have economic effect, it must be consistent with the underlying economic arrangement of the partners. This means that in the event there is an economic benefit or economic burden that corresponds to an allocation, the partner to whom the allocation is made must receive such economic benefit or economic burden.

Some people think that the § 704(b) regulations could have ended right there (although a few words would have been needed on the substantiality point), without sacrificing any effectiveness whatever. That did not happen. These regulations are long, detailed, and the most complex of the regulations interpreting Subchapter K. Before examining these regulations more closely consider the following Preliminary Question:

**Preliminary Question:**

A and B, calendar year individuals, are partners in the AB general partnership to which they each contributed \$100 cash. Their interests under the partnership agreement are as follows:

	A's percentages	B's percentages
Capital	50	50
Profits	60	40
Losses	30	70

Capital accounts (including deficit restoration obligations) will be followed in making all distributions, both current and liquidating.

During the first year of operations, AB loses \$100. In the second year of operations, AB loses \$100. In the third year of operations, AB has \$200 of net income. Please prepare a balance sheet that reflects the situation at the end of each of the three years of operation.

(a) How would AB allocate profits and losses for the first three years of operations?

(b) If AB were to liquidate at the end, alternatively, of each of the first three years of operations, who would receive what?

(c) What if, in June of Year 3, when it looks as though AB will earn about \$200, A and B amend the partnership agreement to adjust their profit shares for Year 3 only: A goes from 60% to 30%; B goes from 40% to 70%. What effect might that have on your conclusions about the allocation of tax losses in years 1 and 2 and the allocation of bottom line income in Year 3?

**Problems:**

1. G and L organize the GL partnership. Each contributes \$50 for his partnership interest. The partnership purchases an apartment building for \$1,000, making a \$100 down payment and paying the remainder of the price with a mortgage loan. The principal of the mortgage loan is payable in a single payment after 12 years. The gross income and deductions of the partnership for each of the first few years are expected to be as follows:

Rent		\$240
Cash operating expenses	\$150	
Interest expense	90	
Depreciation expense	50	
		( \$290)
Loss		(\$ 50)

The partnership agreement allocates all depreciation deductions to L. All other gross income and deductions are allocated to the partners equally.

The partnership agreement provides that all income, gains, losses and deductions will be reflected in the partners' capital accounts (which will be maintained in accordance with Reg. § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)); and each partner will be entitled on liquidation (of either the partnership or the partner's interest) to distribution of an amount equal to his positive capital account balance.

Assume that the partnership operates for two years, and then sells the building at the beginning of year 3 for, alternatively, \$1,100 or \$800. How will the partnership's income, gain, loss and deduction (including depreciation deductions) be allocated between G and L, and will the allocations be respected for federal income tax purposes, in the following alternative variations?

(a) The partnership is a general partnership, the mortgage lender has full recourse against the partnership and the partners, and any partner having a deficit in his capital account when either the partnership or his interest is liquidated must then make an additional capital contribution equal to that deficit.

b) The partnership is a limited partnership with G as the general partner and L as the limited partner; the mortgage loan is recourse; and the partnership agreement says nothing about capital account deficit restoration on liquidation of a partner's interest.

(c) Same as (b), except L is obligated to restore any deficit in his capital account to the extent that it does not exceed \$50, and there is a "QIO" provision [within the meaning of Reg. § 1.704-1(b)(2)(ii)(d)] in the partnership agreement.

(i) Would the year 2 allocations have economic effect or alternate economic effect if: (1) as of the end of year 2 of operations, the partnership plans in year 3 to borrow \$60 on a recourse basis and distribute the cash proceeds of the loan equally to G and L, and (2) the partnership reasonably expects to earn \$60 net income in year 3?

(ii) What if, in year 3, the partnership borrows \$60 and distributes \$30 to each of G and L as planned, but unexpectedly earns only \$40 (net income)?

(d) **Note: Do after Question #3.** Same as (a) except the partnership agreement has a "gain charge-back provision", i.e., a provision that allocates to L all gain on a sale of the apartment building up to the aggregate amount of the depreciation taken on the property.



2. The AB partnership agreement satisfies the three basic requirements of the economic effect test of Reg. § 1.704-1(b)(2)(ii)(b). The AB partnership owns a portfolio of municipal bonds and a AAA Corporate bond with a variable rate of interest. At the beginning of last year, each investment had a value of \$1,000 and each was expected to yield approximate income of \$60. The partnership had net operating income from its business of \$300 for the year. How will the tax exempt and taxable interest be allocated to the partners if the partnership agreement provides:

(a) A and B share equally in aggregate partnership income but A's share is deemed to consist first of interest on the municipal bonds? Assume that the bonds generate the expected amount of income of \$60 each.

(b) A and B share equally in operating income but the interest on the municipal bonds is allocated solely to A and the taxable interest is allocated solely to B? Assume alternatively:

- (i) The agreement on the allocation of interest is made before the beginning of last year and the municipal bonds and corporate bond in fact earn \$60 each of interest, as expected. At the time the agreement is made, A and B are both in the 40% marginal bracket, but B has substantial investment interest carryovers under § 163(d).
- (ii) The same as (i), except B had no investment interest carryover. However, during the year B incurred substantial investment interest expense.
- (iii) Same as (i) but as it turns out the municipal bonds earn \$60 interest and the corporate bond earns \$80 in interest.

3. In 2017, X and Y form a partnership solely to purchase equipment for leasing. The cost of the equipment is \$1,000. X and Y each contribute \$50 to the partnership and the partnership obtains a \$900 recourse loan to purchase the equipment. The partnership enters into an 8-year net lease with a financially sound lessee. Because the equipment is 5-year property for purposes of § 168, the partnership expects to have tax losses for the first 3 years of its operations of \$100, \$100, and \$50 respectively. For the remaining five years of the initial lease, it expects to generate taxable profits of \$75, \$75, \$100, \$100 and \$100.

The XY partnership agreement satisfies the three basic requirements of the economic effect test of Reg. § 1.704-1(b)(2)(ii)(b). The partnership allocates 90% of all partnership income and losses to X and 10% to Y until such time as the amount of taxable income that has been allocated to the partners equals the amount of previously allocated tax losses. Thereafter, all partnership allocations will be allocated 50-50.

On the assumptions that X is at all relevant times in the 40% tax bracket and that Y has an NOL that will expire in three years, will these allocations be respected?

***Problems #4 & #5 deal with Distribution-Driven Allocations (i.e., Targeted Allocations). Do only if specifically assigned,***

4. G and L form a limited partnership. L contributes \$2000, and G, who does not contribute cash, will use her immense brainpower to earn money for the partnership.\* The *business deal* is that L receives all cash distributions until L has received back the amount of her capital investment. Subsequent distributions will be split 80% to L and 20% to G.

In Year 1, the partnership buys two parcels of land, Blackacre and Whiteacre, each for \$1000. At year end, the partnership sells Blackacre for \$1100 and distributes the entire proceeds of \$1100 to L.

How should the \$100 gain on Blackacre be allocated between L and G to be consistent with the business deal?

5. In the alternative, suppose in #4 that the *business deal* is that L is to receive all cash distributions until L received an amount equal to her capital investment, plus a preferred return of 4% annually on that investment (until distributed), before any cash is distributed to G. The partnership's cash flow distribution provisions (i.e., "the waterfall") provide that:

- (i) L is entitled to distributions in the amount of her initial contribution of \$2000,
- (ii) L is entitled to distributions equal to her accumulated preferred return,
- (iii) G is entitled to her "catch-up", a distribution equal to 20% of the sum of (ii) and the (iii), and
- (iv) The balance, if any, is to be distributed 80:20 between L and G.

How should the \$100 gain on Blackacre be allocated?

*Further question:* In Year 2, the partnership continues to hold Whiteacre, but does not otherwise engage in any tax significant transactions. How should the partnership take into account L's 4% preferred return?

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\* In practice, the General Partner of an investment fund will generally make a small capital contribution and will earn a return similar to the Limited Partners with respect to this capital contribution. The capital contribution of the General Partner is ignored for purposes of this simplified example.

## Chapter Six

### Allocation of Nonrecourse Deductions

**Assignment:**

**Logic:** Chapter Six

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-2(b)-(j), (m) Ex. (1) [omit part (v)]; skim § 1.752-3(a).

**Recommended Reading:** *Commissioner v. Tufts*, 461 U.S. 300 (1983).

**Optional Reading:** Laura E. Cunningham and Noël B. Cunningham, *The Story of Tufts: The 'Logic' of Taxing Nonrecourse Transactions in BUSINESS TAX STORIES* (Foundation Press 2005)

### Problem

On January 1, Year 1, G and L form a limited partnership to acquire and operate a rental apartment building. L, the limited partner, contributes \$90 and G, the general partner, \$10. The partnership obtains a nonrecourse loan from an unrelated financial institution for \$900 and purchases a building (on leased land) for \$1,000. The loan is secured by the building. The loan requires interest to be paid currently, but does not call for any principal payment for 5 years. The building is depreciable over 10 years at the rate of \$100 per year.

The partnership agreement contains the following provisions:

1. The agreement satisfies the alternate test for economic effect under § 1.704-1(b)(2)(ii)(d), i.e., it contains the requisite provisions for capital account maintenance and distribution of liquidation proceeds. Although G has a deficit makeup obligation L does not, but the agreement includes a "QIO" provision.
2. The agreement includes a "minimum gain chargeback" provision that complies with § 1.704-2(f).
3. All income and loss, other than nonrecourse deductions, are allocated 90% to L and 10% to G until the first time that the partnership recognizes income and gain that exceed losses sustained in prior years. Thereafter, all income, gain and loss are allocated 50% to G and 50% to L.
4. Nonrecourse deductions are allocated 80% to L and 20% to G.
5. Non-liquidating cash distributions are divided 10% to G and 90% to L until they have each recovered their initial capital contributions (i.e., \$10 to G and \$90 to L). Thereafter, all non-liquidating cash distributions are to be shared 50%-50%.

For the taxable Years 1, 2 and 3, the partnership has rental income of \$70, operating expenses of \$10, interest expense of \$60, and a cost recovery deduction of \$100, for a net loss of \$100.

**Questions:**

(a) Is the 80/20 split of nonrecourse deductions permissible? How much flexibility do G and L have to allocate partnership nonrecourse deductions? Specifically, which of the following would be permissible?

	<u>G</u>	<u>L</u>
(i)	50%	50%
(ii)	10%	90%
(iii)	1%	99%

(b) Assume that on January 1, Year 4 the partnership defaults on the mortgage and transfers the building (then worth \$600) to the lender by deed in lieu of foreclosure, and liquidates. What are the appropriate tax allocations and cash distributions to G and L for Years 1 through 4?

(c) What if, instead, on January 1 Year 4, the partnership sells the building for \$1,100 and liquidates. What are the appropriate tax allocations and distributions to G and L?

(d) What if, instead, in Year 3, the partnership borrows an additional \$100, using the building as security, and distributes the cash to the partners in the ratio of 10/90, in accordance with the partnership agreement. What is the aggregate partnership minimum gain at the end of the year, and what is each partner's share of PMG? If the partnership then sells the building on January 1, Year 4, what are the appropriate allocations and distributions?

For purposes of parts (e) and (f), assume that the partners share nonrecourse deductions in the same proportions that they share all other income and deductions, i.e., 90% to L and 10% to G until the first time that the partnership recognizes income and gain that exceed losses sustained in prior years, thereafter, 50/50.

(e) What if in part (c) instead of selling the building in Year 4, the partnership continues to operate throughout Year 4, during which it earns gross income of \$700, prior to taking into account depreciation for Year 4. It then sells the building on January 1, Year 5 and liquidates. What are the appropriate allocations and distributions?

(f) Suppose that in part (c) on January 1, Year 3, G and L contribute cash to the partnership in the amounts of \$20 and \$180, respectively, and the partnership uses these contributions to reduce the balance of the mortgage from \$900 to \$700. What tax consequences occur in Year 3 as a result of these transactions?

(g) What difference would it make in part (a) if G had guaranteed the original \$900 loan to the lender?

## Chapter Seven Contributions of Property

### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Seven

**Code:** § 704(c)(1)(A) & (C).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-3(a)(1)-(7), (b), (c), (d); 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(g)(3). Prop. Reg. § 1.704-3(f). See also §§ 1.168k-2(b)(3)(iv)(A)

### Problems:

Unless otherwise indicated, in each of the following problems you should assume that the relevant partnership agreement complies with the basic test for economic effect under § 1.704-1(b)(2)(ii).

#### A. Contributions of Non-Depreciable Property

On January 1 of the current year A and B form a partnership to invest in property. A contributes investment land that she acquired two years ago, and that has a fair market value of \$100. B contributes \$100 in cash. Each partner receives a 50% interest in the partnership's capital, profits and losses.

**1. Pre-Contribution Gain.** For purposes of Problem 1, assume that A's basis in the land at the time she contributed it to the partnership is \$50

(a) Under the "traditional method" of accounting for § 704(c) gain, how will the partnership allocate its gain or loss for **book and tax** purposes if the partnership sells the land for:

- i. \$100
- ii. \$150
- iii. \$ 70
- iv. \$ 30

(b) Assume the partnership invests B's cash in stock that appreciates and the partnership sells the stock at a tax and book gain of \$30 in the same taxable year in which it sells the land. Would your answer to (a)(iii) above differ if the partnership used the "traditional method with curative allocations?"

(c) What if, in (b), the partnership does not sell the stock and, in fact, has no items of income, gain, loss or deduction in the year that the land is sold other than from the sale of the land: would your answer to (a)(iii) above differ if the

partnership used the "traditional method with curative allocations?"

(d) How would your answer to (a)(iii) differ if the partnership used the "remedial allocation method"?

**2. Built-In Losses.** For purposes of this Problem 2, assume that the land has a basis in A's hands at the time of contribution of \$140 and its fair market value is \$100. Under the "traditional method", how will the partnership allocate its gain or loss for book and tax purposes if the partnership sells the land for:

- (a) \$70
- (b) \$120
- (c) \$160

## **B. Contributions of Depreciable Property**

Five years ago, A acquired equipment to use in her leasing business. The equipment had a recovery period of 10 years and A elected to use straight line depreciation. On January 1 of this year, A formed an equipment leasing partnership with B. A contributed the equipment with a fair market value of \$100 and B contributed \$100 in cash. A and B agreed to share all profits and losses equally. The partnership will maintain the partners' capital accounts according to § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv). The equipment would have had a 10 year recovery period if the partnership had purchased the equipment this year. Each year the partnership will have gross rental income of \$20 before taking into account depreciation. The partnership will have no other income and no expenses other than depreciation.

**1. Traditional Method.** Under the "traditional method", how will the partnership allocate each year's depreciation on the equipment for **book and tax** purposes if A's basis in the equipment (at the time of contribution) was, alternatively:

- (a) \$80
- (b) \$50
- (c) \$20

**2. Curative Allocations.** Assume in problem 1(c) above that the partners agreed to use the "traditional method with curative allocations".

- (a) Would curative allocations affect the partners' 50-50 allocations of "book" items for purposes of § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)?
- (b) How would the partnership allocate its \$20 per year of gross rental income and its tax depreciation?

**3. Remedial Allocations.** Assume instead that the partnership agreement called for the use of the "remedial allocation method." How would the partnership allocate each year's depreciation on the equipment for book and tax purposes if A's basis at the time of contribution was, alternatively:

(a) \$20

(b) \$40

**4. Zero Basis.** How would your answer change to 1 or 3 change if A's basis in the property were \$0 [Zero] at the time of contribution?

**5. Built-in Losses.** Suppose instead that A's basis at the time of contribution was \$120. How much depreciation would each partner be entitled to each year?

### **C. Reverse § 704(c) Transactions**

Several years ago A and B formed a partnership that acquired an apartment building to rent. A and B are equal partners. On the first day of the current year, when the building has a value of \$120 and the partnership's adjusted tax basis in the building is \$40, A and B admit C as a one-third partner in exchange for a \$60 cash contribution.

**1. Revaluation.** Assume that the partnership revalues its capital accounts as permitted by § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(f) to reflect fair market value of the building as of C's admission, and elects to use the traditional method for allocations with respect to the revalued property. Reconstruct the partnership's balance sheet.

(a) **Gain allocation.** If the building is subsequently sold at a time that its basis is still \$40, how would the partnership allocate the resulting book and tax gain or loss if the building is sold, in the alternative, for:

(i) \$120

(ii) \$90

(iii) \$15

(b) **Depreciation allocation.** Assume the partnership will recover the remaining \$40 tax basis in the building at the rate of \$10 per year over the building's remaining 4 year life under ACRS. How will the partnership allocate those deductions if it uses the traditional method for making § 704(c) allocations?

**2. No Revaluation.** Assume that the partnership did not choose to revalue, or "book up" its capital accounts to fair market value upon admission of C. Determine how the partnership should allocate its \$80 of tax and book gain if the property were sold for \$120. If your answer is an equal one third division of the gain, might any of the partners object to that result? Why? What other alternative does the partnership have? See § 704(c), the last sentence of § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(f) and § 1.704-1(b)(1)(iii) and (iv).



## **Chapter Eight Partnership Liabilities**

### **Assignment:**

**Logic:** Chapter Eight

**Code:** §§ 704(d), § 705(a), 722, 731(a)(1), 733, 752

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-1(d), 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(c), 1.731-1(a)(1), 1.752-0 thru -4.

**Optional Reading:** *Raphan v. United States*, 3 Cl.Ct. 457 (1983), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part*, 759 F.2d 879 Fed Cir. 1985)

### **Problems:**

#### **1. Limitations on Losses under § 704(d).**

A and B, calendar year individuals, are equal partners in a real estate partnership. In the current year, the partnership had gross rental income of \$250 and deductions, including depreciation, of \$300. To what extent is the resulting loss of \$50 deductible by the partners limited under § 704(d), if:

- (a) The adjusted bases of A and B for their interests in the partnership as of the last day of the current year (after adjustment for all events during the year other than the loss) are \$10 and \$30, respectively.
- (b) Same as (a) except the partnership has taxable income of \$30 for the following year.
- (c) Same as (a) except the current year's loss is comprised of an operating loss of \$30 and a long-term capital loss of \$20?
- (d) Same as (a) except that A's basis at the beginning of the year was \$10, A contributed an additional \$10 to partnership capital at the middle of the year, and the partnership distributed \$20 to him on the last day of the year.

#### **2. Economic Risk of Loss: Allocating Recourse Liabilities of a General Partnership**

A and B organized a general partnership in the current year to acquire and develop a tract of land. Each contributed \$20 to the partnership for a 50 percent interest in capital, profits and losses. The partnership purchased the land from a third party for \$200. It paid the price with the funds contributed by the partners and a mortgage loan of \$160. Assume under local law that A and B are each jointly and severally liable to repay

the mortgage, including interest, if the partnership cannot pay it. The partnership agreement contains the appropriate capital account deficit restoration provisions.

- (a) The partnership engaged in no transactions during the year other than the purchase of the land. What is the basis of each partner's interest at the end of current year?
- (b) Would it make any difference in (a) if the partnership had borrowed the \$160 from A or had purchased the property from A on a deferred payment basis, in each case giving A its \$160 recourse obligation?
- (c) Same as (a), except that A contributed \$40 and B contributed no initial capital, but they still agree to share profits and losses equally.

### **3. Defining and Sharing Recourse Liabilities of a Limited Partnership**

The GL limited partnership was organized at the beginning of the current year. G, the general partner, contributed \$10 for a 10 percent interest in profits, losses and capital, and L, as limited partner, received a 90 percent interest in profits, losses and capital in exchange for a capital contribution of \$90. The partnership immediately purchased a rental apartment building for \$1,000, paying \$100 in cash and issuing a \$900 purchase money note, with interest payable currently and a lump-sum principal payment due in 20 years. Determine each partner's initial outside basis under each of the following alternatives:

- (a) The note is recourse, and hence the partnership (and G as its general partner) is personally liable on the note. As a limited partner, L is required to make no additional capital contributions beyond the \$90 he contributed upon formation. L has no personal liability with respect to the note.
- (b) Same as (a), except that under the partnership agreement L, as the limited partner, is obligated to contribute additional capital of \$900 to the partnership in the future (making the total required capital from L \$990).
- (c) Same as (a), except that L has assumed and promised to pay the entire note as it becomes due. Assume that the holder of the mortgage could proceed directly against L as well as G and the partnership if the note is not paid. Also assume that if the holder of the mortgage sued G or the partnership for payment, G and the partnership would sue L for the same amount since L's assumption made him ultimately liable on the debt.
- (d) Same as (a), except that L has guaranteed the note in a side agreement directly with the holder of the mortgage?

#### 4. Defining and Sharing Nonrecourse liabilities.

Assume that the \$900 note in problem 3 is nonrecourse (i.e., it is secured by the apartment building but neither the partnership nor either of its partners has any personal liability on the note).

- (a) Determine each partner's initial outside basis in the partnership.
- (b) Same as (a), except that L pledged IBM stock (basis \$100, value \$200) to secure the loan?
- (c) Same as (a), except that L guaranteed the note in a side agreement with the holder?
- (d) Same as (a), except that L guaranteed the holder that it would receive a minimum of \$200?
- (e) Same as (a), except that the partnership's note is guaranteed, alternatively, by:
  - i. G's wholly owned corporation?
  - ii. L's father?
  - iii. G's sister?
  - iv. Another partnership in which L is an 80% partner? or
  - v. A partner of L in another partnership?

#### 5. A Closer Look at How § 1.752-3 Works Over Time -- *Do only if specifically assigned*

**Basic Facts:** Two years ago, G and L formed a partnership to which L contributed \$90 cash and G contributed a building with a FMV of \$900, subject to a nonrecourse mortgage of \$890. No principal payments were due on the mortgage for five years. At the time of contribution G's basis was \$450. G had been depreciating the building using the straight-line method of depreciation and there were 9 years remaining in its recovery period at the time of contribution. The partners agreed to share all items of income and loss 90/10. For its first two years of operations, GL's out-of-pocket expenses precisely equaled its income so that it had a tax loss of equal to its cost recovery on the building of \$50. Assume throughout that GL allocates all excess nonrecourse liabilities in accordance with how G and L share profits, and that it uses the traditional method for accounting for § 704(c) gain.

#### **Questions:**

1. What is each partner's initial basis in the partnership? Construct GL's initial balance sheet.
2. What is each partner's outside basis after the first year's operations? Construct GL's balance sheet at year-end.

3. What is each partner's outside basis after the second year's operations? Construct GL's balance sheet at the end of the second year.

## Chapter Nine Partner/Partnership Transactions

### Part A. Payments to a Partner under §§ 707(a) and 707(c)

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Nine, pp. 181 - 95

**Code:** §§ 707(a)(1), (a)(2)(A), (c), 267(a)(2), (e)(1)-(4).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.707-1(a), (c); 1.704-1(b)(1)(v), (2)(iv)(o). Prop. Reg. § 1.707-2

#### Problems:

1. A is a partner in the ABC partnership. Under the partnership agreement A is entitled to \$10,000 each year for her services, which are ordinary in nature and performed in his capacity as a partner. A's share of the partnership's profits and losses, after deduction of the services payment, is one third. For 2020 the partnership's income, before deduction of the \$10,000 payment to A, consisted of \$4,000 of ordinary income and \$15,000 of long-term capital gain. A and the partnership use the calendar year as their taxable years. A is a cash method taxpayer, and the partnership uses the accrual method.

(a) Determine partnership taxable income for 2020 and A's distributive share.

(b) When is the \$10,000 included in A's gross income if it is paid to her on January 3, 2021?

(c) How does A's entitlement to the \$10,000 and the payment of this sum affect the basis of her interest?

2. In the alternative, assume that A is to receive one third of partnership profits (regardless of character) but not less than \$10,000 (this minimum guarantee to be financed from B's and C's accounts). Determine partnership taxable income and A's distributable share of the same if partnership income for 2020 consisted of:

(a) Ordinary income of \$15,000 and long-term capital gains of \$15,000,

(b) Ordinary income of \$15,000, or

(c) Ordinary income of \$6,000.

3. X and Y plan to construct a mall. They have hired an architect (Z) to design the project, whose fee would normally be \$100,000. X and Y propose that, in lieu of

paying Z her normal fee, she receive an interest in the partnership in exchange for her services. Z's interest would entitle her to 8% of the partnership's gross income for its first three years of operations, at which point her interest in the partnership would terminate. X and Y have obtained signed lease agreements for most of the project. Assume the partnership generates \$400,000 of gross rental income per year, and \$132,000 net income per year, before accounting for Z's share. What might be the advantage of organizing the venture in this way? Will it work?

## **Part B. Partnership Interests in Exchange for Services**

### **Assignment:**

**Logic:** Chapter Nine, pp. 195 - 200

**Code:** Skim §§ 83(a), (b) & (h)

**Regulations:** Prop. Regs. §§ 1.721-1(b)(1)-(5); 1.83-3(e) & (l)

**Recommended Reading:** *Diamond v. Commissioner*, 492 F.2d 286 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1974); *Rev. Proc. 2001-43*, 2001-2 C.B. 191, *McDougal v. Commissioner*, 62 T.C. 720 (1974).

**Optional Reading:** Victor Fleischer, *Two and Twenty: Taxing Partnership Profits in Private Equity Funds*, 83 NYU L. Rev. 1. (2008).

### **Problems:**

1. A, B and C decide to form a partnership for the purpose of developing real property. A and B are wealthy individuals, with no particular real estate experience. C is an experienced developer. The parties agree that A and B will each contribute \$1,000,000 to the venture, and that C will contribute his expertise. What tax consequences will result from formation of the venture under each of the following alternatives?

- (a) In exchange for cash contributions of \$1,000,000 apiece, A and B each receive a forty percent interest in the profits, losses and capital of the venture. In exchange for his future services C receives the remaining 20% interest in profits, losses and capital.
- (b) In exchange for their cash contributions A and B each receive a 50% interest in capital and losses. Profits of the venture are divided 40% to A, 40% to B, and 20% to C.
- (c) What if in (a) instead of contributing cash, A and B jointly contribute a piece of raw land that they have held for investment for several years. The property is worth \$2,000,000, and it has a basis of \$100,000.

(d) Would your answer to part (c) differ if A and B form a partnership in year one, and admit C as a partner in year three?

2. Five years ago T created a partnership to operate a fund to invest in various private enterprises. He raised \$95 million from limited partners and invested \$5 million of his own. T is the sole general partner. The partnership agreement provides that T will receive, as compensation for his services as general partner, (i) an annual management fee equal to 2% of the initial capital of the fund (\$2,000,000 per year), and (ii) 20% of the fund's profits (defined as realized gains). Net profits, i.e., realized gains minus T's 2% management fee and 20% profit share, are divided among the partners in proportion to capital contributions.

The fund has been successful and this year it sold one of the stocks in its portfolio for a long term capital gain of \$52 million. As a result, T receives the following in the current year:

(i) \$2,000,000 as his annual management fee.

(ii) \$10,000,000 as his 20% profit share

(iii) \$2,000,000 as his 5% share of the net profits that he receives as a result of his 5% capital contribution.

How will T be taxed on each of these amounts?

## Chapter Ten Sales of Partnership Interests

### Introductory Example:

Consider the following simple, three person general partnership:

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>		
	<u><i>AB/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>		<u><i>Liabilities</i></u>	
Cash	\$30	\$30		\$0	
Accts Rec.	0	60			
Land	<u>30</u>	<u>60</u>			
	\$60	\$150			

  

	<i>Capital Accounts</i>		
	<u><i>Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>	
X	\$20	\$50	
Y	20	50	
Z	<u>20</u>	<u>50</u>	
Total	\$60	\$150	

X sells her interest in the partnership to Buyer for \$50 cash. A number of important tax consequences will result from the sale. First, what is the amount and character of X's gain from the sale? Second, what is Buyer's outside basis in his newly acquired partnership interest, and what are the balances in his book and tax capital accounts? And finally, how much income must Buyer report if the partnership collects the accounts receivable, or sells the land?

Before moving to the more complicated facts of the problems below, you will be first asked to answer these questions with respect to these simple facts.

### Part A: Consequences to Sellers

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Ten, pp. 201 - 09

**Code:** §§ 1(h)(6), 741, 751(a), (c), (d), 453(i).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.1(h)-1, 1.741-1; 1.751-1(a), (c), (d), (e), (g) ex.(1).

**Optional Reading:** *Ledoux v. Commissioner*, 77 T.C. 293 (1981), *aff'd per curiam*, 695 F.2d 1320 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983)



**Problems:**

1. In the introductory example above, what is the amount and character of the gain or loss realized by X upon sale of her partnership interest to Buyer?

2. A, B and C are equal partners in the ABC partnership. On January 1 of this year, A's outside basis is \$250 and ABC's balance sheet (including FMV's) is as follows:

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>		
	<u><i>AB/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>		<u><i>Liabilities</i></u>	
Cash	\$240	\$240		\$150	
Accts Rec.	75	60			
Inventory	90	150			
Machinery	55	100			
Building	200	500			
Stock	90	300			
Goodwill	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$1650</b>			
				<u><i>Capital</i></u>	
				<i>Accounts</i>	
				<u><i>Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>
			A	\$200	\$500
			B	200	500
			C	<u>200</u>	<u>500</u>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$1500</b>

- What are the tax consequences to A if A were to sell her interest to P for \$500 cash? Assume that ABC purchased the machine three years ago for \$120, and that \$120 in depreciation has been taken on the building since its acquisition five years ago.
- What difference would it make, if any, if P paid A \$200 in cash at closing and gave A her note for the balance of \$300 (bearing adequate stated interest)?  
**Do not do the calculations.**

## Part B: Consequences to Buyers

### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Ten, pp. 209 - 25

**Code:** §§ 732(a) & (d), 742, 743(a)-(d), 754, 755(a) & (b).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(l), (m)(1), (2) & (5); 1.704-1(b)(5) Ex. (13)(iii) & (iv), 1.742-1, 1.743-1(a)-(e) & (j), 1.754-1, 1.755-1(a)(1) & (b)(1)-(3).

### Problems:

1. In the introductory example above, what is the Buyer's initial outside basis in his partnership interest? In the absence of any elections, how much income will the Buyer report if the partnership collects the receivables? Might Buyer find that result problematic?
2. P purchased the 1/3 interest from A **Problem 2** in **Part A** above for \$500 cash. What is P's initial outside basis and the balance in her capital account at the time of purchase?
3. In the absence of a § 754 election, what would be the tax consequences to P if she held the interest for three years and then sold it for \$500. Assume that during this period of time the partnership engaged in no transactions and there was no change in the value of its assets (ignore cost recovery allowances).
4. If the partnership makes a § 754 election:
  - (i) What is the amount of the § 743(b) adjustment and how should it be allocated among the partnership's assets?
  - (ii) Is this adjustment reflected in P's "book" capital account under § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(m)(2)?
  - (iii) How should the partnership compute its cost recovery allowance on the building and the machinery for the year of P's purchase and thereafter?
5. What difference would it make to your answer to 4(i) if A had contributed the stock to the partnership when its value was \$180? [Assume also for this purpose that the partnership's basis in the building was \$110, this adjustment to the facts is arbitrary and is done simply to maintain equality between inside and outside basis] If this were the case then at the time of the sale, A's outside basis would be \$160 and the partnership's capital accounts would be as follows:

	<u><b>Tax</b></u>	<u><b>Book</b></u>	<u><b>FMV</b></u>
A	\$110	\$200	\$500
B	\$200	\$200	\$500
C	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$500</u>
	\$510	\$600	\$1500

### **Part C: Varying Partnership Interests**

#### **Assignment:**

**Logic:** Chapter Ten, pp. 225 - 31

**Code:** §§ 706(c) & (d).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.706-1(c)(1), (2) & (4), and 1.706-4.

#### **Problem:**

ABCD is an equal four person partnership that has a fiscal year ending on June 30. For its fiscal year ending on June 30, 2020, ABCD has \$732,000 in bottom-line income, \$200,000 of which was earned prior to December 1, 2019. In addition, ABCD has a capital gain of \$80,000 from the sale of stock on May 1, 2020. Note that 2020 is a leap year.

On December 7, 2019, A sells her 25% partnership interest to P. Both A and P are calendar year taxpayers.

(a) How will the partnership's taxable income for its FYE June 30, 2020 allocable to the 25% interest that was sold by A be divided between A and P if the partnership uses (i) the interim closing method and the semi-monthly convention, or (ii) the proration method?

(b) In what calendar year must A report her share of that income?

(c) Would your answer in part (b) be different if A sold one half of her interest to P, and retained the other half?

## Chapter Eleven Distributions: The Basics

### Part A: Prorata Current Distributions

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Eleven

**Code:** §§ 731(a) & (b), 732(a) & (c); 733; 734(a), 735.

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(e), -1(b)(5) Ex.(14)(v); 1.731-1(a)(1), (3), -1(c); 1.732-1(a), (c); 1.752-1(e), (f).

#### Problem:

ABC is a cash-method partnership with three equal partners, A, B and C. It has no liabilities. Its assets are:

	<u>Basis</u>	<u>FMV</u>
Cash	\$ 60	\$ 60
Inventory	60	90
Acc'ts Receivable <sup>1</sup>	0	30
Land held for investment	<u>30</u>	<u>90</u>
Total	\$150	\$270

Assume the bases of A, B and C for their partnership interests are \$40, \$30 and \$20, respectively. The partnership's total inside basis exceeds the partners' total outside bases, even though the partnership assets reflect unrealized appreciation. (Can you figure out how this might happen? See footnote<sup>2</sup> for one possibility).

What are the tax consequences to the partnership and the partners if the partnership:

- (a) Makes a cash distribution of \$20 to each partner and also distributes an undivided one-third interest in the land to each partner,
- (b) Makes a distribution to each partner consisting of \$10 in cash, one-third of the inventory and an undivided one-third interest in the land,

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<sup>1</sup> Reg. § 1.446-1(c)(2)(i) requires use of the accrual method for purchases and sales if the taxpayer must maintain inventories. Assume the receivables in the problem arose from a separate business carried on by the partnership, unrelated to its inventory sales, for which the cash method is used. See § 1.446-1(d).

<sup>2</sup> One possibility is that one or more of the partners bought her or their interest(s) when the partnership assets had declined in value to less than the partnership's basis (i.e., when the partnership had unrealized losses); no § 754 election was in effect; and the asset values subsequently rebounded.

- (c) Makes a distribution to each partner consisting of \$10 in cash, one-third of the accounts receivable, and one-third of the inventory, or
- (d) Distributes \$45 cash to A and distributes one-half undivided interests in the land to B and C.
- (e) ***Do only if specifically assigned:*** Borrows \$75, giving a mortgage on the land as security, distributes the land (subject to the mortgage) to A, and distributes \$15 in cash to each of B and C.

## Part B: Prorata Liquidating Distributions

### Assignment:

**Code:** §§ 731(a), (b) & (d); 732(b) & (c); 735; 761(d).

**Regulations::** §§ 1.706-1(c)(2); 1.731-1(a); 1.732-1(a)-(c); 1.761-1(d).

### Problem:

ABC is an equal partnership. On January 1 of this year, A's outside basis is \$170 and the partnership's balance sheet is as follows (expanded to include fair market values):

	<u>AB/Book</u>	<u>FMV</u>	<i>Liabilities</i>
Cash	\$120	\$120	\$150
Accts Rec.	0	30	
Inventory	30	60	
Land #1	180	120	
Land #2	90	120	
Stock (non-marketable)	<u>90</u>	<u>150</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$510</b>	<b>\$600</b>	

  

	<i>Capital Accounts</i>	
	<u>Tax/Book</u>	<u>FMV</u>
A	\$120	\$150
B	120	150
C	<u>120</u>	<u>150</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$360</b>	<b>\$450</b>

On this date, A receives the following *alternative* distributions in complete liquidation of her interest in the partnership. What are the tax consequences to A as a result of each of these distributions?

1. The accounts receivable and Land #1.
2. The accounts receivable and Land #2.
3. One-half the inventory and Land #1.
4. One-third of both the inventory and the accounts receivables and Land #2.
5. The accounts receivable and a one-half interest in both Land #1 and Land #2.
  - i. What difference would it make if A's basis prior to the distribution were \$148?
  - ii. What difference would it make if A's basis prior to the distribution were \$210?
6. One-third of both the inventory and the accounts receivables and \$120 cash.
  - i. What difference would it make if A's outside basis were only \$100?
  - ii. What difference would it make if A's outside basis were \$200?

## Chapter Twelve Optional Basis Adjustment

### Part A: Effects of Distributions on Adjusted Bases of Undistributed Assets

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Twelve

**Code:** §§ 734; 754; 755.

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(m)(1), (4) & (5); 1.734-1, -2; 1.754-1; 1.755-1(a) & (c).

#### Problems:

1. ABC is an equal partnership that has made a § 754 election. On January 1 of this year, A's outside basis is \$2100 and the partnership's balance sheet is as follows (expanded to include fair market values (000's omitted)):

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>		
	<u><i>AB/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>	<i>Liabilities</i>		
Cash	\$3000	\$3000	\$1500		
Accts Rec.	0	300			
Inventory	300	600			
Blackacre	1500	1200			
Whiteacre	600	1200			
Greenacre	<u>900</u>	<u>1500</u>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6300</b>	<b>\$7800</b>			
			<i>Capital Accounts</i>		
			<u><i>Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>	
			A	\$1600	\$2100
			B	1600	2100
			C	<u>1600</u>	<u>2100</u>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4800</b>	<b>\$6300</b>

On this date, the partnership makes the following alternative distributions in liquidation of A's interest in the partnership. Please determine the basis that A takes in each of the assets she receives, and the adjustments (if any) that the partnership must make to the each of its retained assets.

- a. A receives \$600 cash, the accounts receivable and Blackacre.
  - b. A receives \$600 cash, ½ the inventory, and Whiteacre.
  - c. A receives \$300 cash, the accounts receivables, and Greenacre.
  - d. A receives \$1800 in cash and the receivables.
2. What difference would it make in Question #1(c), if there were no § 754 election in place at the time of the distribution?
3. Assume in the alternative that ABC had not fared so well and that on January 1 of this year, A's outside basis was \$3200 and the partnership's balance sheet were as follows (expanded to include fair market values (000's omitted)):

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>		
	<u><i>AB/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>		<u><i>Liabilities</i></u>	
Cash	\$2900	\$2900		\$1500	
Accts Rec.	0	300			
Inventory	400	600			
Blackacre	2900	1400			
Whiteacre	900	1100			
Greenacre	<u>2500</u>	<u>1500</u>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9600</b>	<b>\$7800</b>			

  

			<i>Capital Accounts</i>		
	<u><i>Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>		<u><i>Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>
A	\$2700	\$2100			
B	2700	2100			
C	<u>2700</u>	<u>2100</u>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8100</b>	<b>\$6300</b>			

On this date, A receives the following alternative liquidating distributions in complete liquidation of A's interest in the partnership. Please determine the basis that A takes in each of the assets she receives, and the adjustments (if any) that the partnership must make to the each of its retained assets.

- a. A receives \$1800 in cash and the accounts receivable.
- b. A receives \$400 in cash, the accounts receivable and Blackacre.



## B. The Intersection of § 743(b) and § 734

### Assignment:

**Regulations:** §§ 1.734-2, 1.743-1(g)

### Problems:

Z is a one-third partner in the ABC partnership. She purchased her partnership interest from C six years ago, when the partnership's only asset was Blackacre. At that time ABC had a § 754 election in place and Z was given a special basis adjustment under § 743(b) of \$200, which was entirely allocated to Blackacre.

In the current year, the balance sheet of the ABC partnership (expanded to include FMVs) is as follows:

	<u><i>Basis/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>
Cash	\$2000	\$2000
Blackacre	\$1000	\$2000
Greenacre	<u>\$900</u>	<u>\$2000</u>
	\$3900	\$6000

	<i>Capital Accounts</i>	
	<u><i>Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>
A	\$1300	\$2000
B	\$1300	\$2000
Z	<u>\$1300</u>	<u>\$2000</u>
	\$3900	\$6000

A and B each have an outside basis of \$1300, and Z has an outside basis of \$1500.

Assume that on January 1 of the current year the partnership makes the following alternative distributions. What tax consequences, if any, result to the partnership, the distributee partner, and the remaining partners?

1. ABC distributes Blackacre to A in complete liquidation of her interest.
2. ABC distributes Blackacre to Z in complete liquidation of her partnership interest.
3. ABC distributes Greenacre to Z in complete liquidation of her partnership interest
4. ABC distributes cash of \$2000 to Z in complete liquidation of her partnership interest.

## **Part C: Sales of Distributed Property**

### **Assignment:**

**Code:** §§ 732(d); 735; 7701(a)(42) - (45).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(m)(1) & (3); 1.732-1(d); -2; 1.735-1.

### **Problems:**

1. A and B, neither of whom are in the real estate business in their individual capacities, are equal partners in a partnership which regularly develops and sells lots for home building. The partnership distributes to A a lot with a basis in excess of its value, and to B a lot with a value in excess of its basis. A plans to sell his lot and recognize an ordinary loss, whereas B plans to give his lot to his son who will sell it and recognize a long-term capital gain. Will the plan work?

2. D purchased from A a one-third interest in the profits and capital of the ABC partnership for \$60. The assets of the partnership then consisted of subdivision lots held for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the partnership business (value, \$90, adjusted basis, \$60) and a tract of land held for investment (value \$90, basis \$30). The partnership had no liabilities. What are the tax consequences to D if, alternatively:

- (a) The partnership makes a § 754 election for the year in which D bought his interest; within two years after D's purchase, the partnership distributes an undivided one third interest in the lots to each of the partners; and D sells the interest he receives for \$30.
- (b) What if, in (a), the partnership makes no § 754 election?
- (c) What if, in (b), the distribution were made more than two years after D's purchase?
- (d) What if the partnership makes no § 754 election and, within two years after D's purchase, D sells his partnership interest for \$60 before the partnership engages in any transactions or the values of its assets change? See § 751(a).

## Chapter Thirteen Disproportionate Distributions

### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Thirteen

**Code:** §§ 732(e); 751(b).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.731-1(b); 1.732-1(e); 1.751-1(b), -1(g) exs. (2) thru (4). See also Prop. Reg. § 1.751-1(e).

**Recommended Reading:** *Rev. Rul. 84-102*, 1984-2 C.B. 119

### Problems:

1. ABC is an equal partnership in which each partner has an outside basis and capital account balance of \$1000. On January 1 of this year, the partnership's balance sheet is as follows:

	<u><i>Basis/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>		<u><i>Capital Tax/Book</i></u>	<u><i>Accounts FMV</i></u>
Inventory	\$1800	\$6000			
Capital Asset	<u>1200</u>	<u>3000</u>			
	\$3000	\$9000			
			<i>A</i>	\$1000	\$3000
			<i>B</i>	1000	3000
			<i>C</i>	<u>1000</u>	<u>3000</u>
				\$3000	\$9000

On this date, ABC distributes the Capital Asset to A in complete liquidation of her interest in the partnership.

- a. In the absence of § 751(b), what would be the tax consequences of this distribution to the various parties? What might Congress find these results objectionable?
- b. Taking into account § 751(b), what are the tax consequences to the partnership and each of the partners?

2. A owns 50% of the ABC general partnership. The remaining 50% is owned equally by B and C. The partnership made a § 754 election. Prior to any distributions, A's outside basis is \$550. On January 1 of this year, ABC distributes Land with a value of \$400 in complete liquidation of her interest in the partnership. At the time of the liquidating distribution the partnership's balance sheet (after booking up) is as follows:

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>		
	<u><i>Basis</i></u>	<u><i>Book</i></u>	<i>Liabilities</i>		
Inventory	\$100	\$240	Mortgage		\$900
Land	250	400			
Building	<u>750</u>	<u>1060</u>			
<b>Total</b>	\$1100	\$1700			

  

			<i>Capital Accounts</i>	
			<u><i>Tax</i></u>	<u><i>Book</i></u>
A	\$100	\$400		
B	50	200		
C	<u>50</u>	<u>200</u>		
<b>Total</b>	\$200	\$800		

**Questions:**

- What is the amount and character of any gain or loss recognized by each of the parties as a result of this transaction?
- What is A's basis in the land received in the transaction?
- What is the partnership's basis in the inventory and the building after the transaction?

3. A, B and C comprise a partnership organized several years ago to invest in and develop land. Each partner contributed \$100 to the partnership at its inception. The partnership used this money to purchase a tract of land as an investment and to purchase a second tract and develop this second tract as a residential subdivision. The partnership has realized no income yet but plans to sell the subdivision lots later this year and to sell the land held for investment next year. Its balance sheet is as follows:

<i>Assets</i>		<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>	
	<u><i>Basis</i></u>	<u><i>Book</i></u>	<i>Liabilities</i>
Lots	\$30	\$150	None
Land	<u>270</u>	<u>450</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$600</b>	

  

	<i>Capital Accounts</i>	
	<u><i>Tax</i></u>	<u><i>Book</i></u>
A	\$100	\$200
B	100	200
C	<u>100</u>	<u>200</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$600</b>

A has substantial net operating loss deductions from other investments and little income to offset them. The partnership's accountant has suggested that this situation might be exploited by distributing the lots to A before they are sold. The partnership would "book-up" the capital accounts of the partners and the assets of the partnership to fair market value as permitted under § 1.704-1(b)(2)(iv)(f). A's interest in capital and future book profits would be decreased from one-third to one-ninth to reflect this disproportionate distribution. The interests of B and C in book capital and future book profits and losses would increase to four-ninths each.

- What are the tax consequences of the distribution to the partnership, A, B and C?
- How might the ABC partnership structure a distribution of the lots held for resale in a manner that both avoids § 751(b) and to some extent achieves the result which § 751(b) was intended to prohibit? Assume the partnership's holding of lots (FMV = \$150; basis = \$30) consists of three lots, each worth \$50 with bases of \$15, \$15, and \$0 respectively.

## Chapter Fourteen Retirement and Death of Partners

### Part A: Retirements

#### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Fourteen, pp. 295 - 303

**Code:** §§ 706(c); 707(c); 736; 761(d).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.706-1(c)(2); 1.707-1(c); 1.736-1.

#### Problem:

ABC is an equal general partnership in which capital is not a material producing factor (i.e., a service partnership). A is planning to retire. On January 1 of Year 1, A's outside basis is \$100. The partnership has made a § 754 election. On this date, ABC's balance sheet is as follows (expanded to include goodwill and fair market values):

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>	
	<u><i>AB/Bk</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>		
Cash	\$120	\$120	Mortgage	\$150
Acc'ts Rec.	0	75		
Building	90	255		
Land	90	300		
Goodwill	<u>0</u>	<u>150</u>		
	\$300	\$900		
			<i>Capital Accounts</i>	
			<u><i>Tax/Bk</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>
			A	\$50
			B	50
			C	<u>50</u>
				\$150
				\$750

Assume that no principal payments are due on the mortgage until Year 5. What are the tax consequences to A if, in the alternative:

1. B and C purchase A's partnership interest, each paying \$125 cash.
2. The partnership makes a lump sum payment to A in the amount of \$250 in complete liquidation of A's interest in the partnership, and the agreement makes no reference to partnership goodwill?

3. The partnership makes a lump sum payment to A in the amount of \$250 in complete liquidation of A's interest in the partnership. Under the partnership agreement, \$50 of the payment is specifically allocated to A's share of the partnership's goodwill.
4. How would your analysis in (2) change if the partnership had equipment that had inherent recapture? *Note: No calculations are necessary.*
5. How would your answer to part (2) change if the partnership agrees to pay A the \$250 over time: \$50 in Year 1, \$100 in Year 2 and a final \$100 in Year 3? A agrees to remain personally liable on mortgage until she receives her last payment.
6. How would your analysis in part (2) be different if the partnership were capital intensive? *Note: No calculations are necessary.*

## Part B: Death of a Partner

### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Fourteen, pp. 303 - 307

**Code:** §§ 706(c); 736; 743(b); 753; 691(a)(1), (b), (c)(1).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.706-1(c)(3); 1.732-1(d)(1)(i); 1.736-1(a)(6); 1.742-1; 1.753-1(a), (b).

**BASIC FACTS:** DEF is an equal general partnership engaged in medical practice. On January 1 of this year, D died, triggering the partnership's buy/sell agreement. Just prior to his death, D's outside basis was \$130. According to the agreement, the partnership must pay D's sole beneficiary, B, \$500 in liquidation of her interest in the partnership. Neither the partnership agreement nor the buy/sell agreement mentions goodwill. There is no § 754 election in place. On the date of death, DEF's balance sheet (with FMVs) was as follows:

<i>Assets</i>			<i>Liabilities &amp; Capital</i>	
	<u><i>AB/Book</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>	<i>Liabilities</i>	
Cash	\$120	\$120		
Acc'ts Rec.	0	150		
Installment Oblig.	150	270		
Equipment	90	300		
Land	30	510		
Goodwill	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>		
	\$390	\$1650		
			<i>Capital Accounts</i>	
			<u><i>Tax/Bk</i></u>	<u><i>FMV</i></u>
			D	\$80
			E	80
			F	<u>80</u>
				\$240
				\$1500

Assume that the equipment was purchased by the partnership for \$400, and that the land is used in the partnership's business.

### Questions:

1. Before the distribution to B in liquidation of her interest in the partnership, what is her outside basis?



2. If there were a § 754 election in place what would be the amount of the § 743(b) adjustment, and among which assets (and in what amounts) would it be allocated?
3. What are the income tax consequences to B of the \$500 distribution?
4. What difference would it have made if the agreement explicitly allocated \$100 to goodwill?
5. What difference would it have made if there were no buy/sell agreement and B (who is also a doctor) becomes a partner in D's place?

## Chapter Fifteen Disguised Sales and Exchanges

### Assignment:

**Logic:** Chapter Fifteen

**Code:** §§ 704(c)(1)(B), 737, 707(a)(2)(B).

**Regulations:** §§ 1.707-3(a) through (e), (f) Ex. 1, 2, 3 and 8; 1.707-5(a) through (e), (f) Ex. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10; -6(a), (b)(1), (b)(2)(iii), (d); -8; 1.737-1. Skim § 1.707-4. Temp. Reg. § 1.707-5T.

**Recommended Reading:** *Otey v. Commissioner*, 634 F.2d 1046 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1980)

### Problems:

1. A, B and C form the ABC partnership. A contributes land worth \$2500 in which A has a basis of \$1000. B and C each contributes \$1000 cash.. A is to have a 50% interest in profits, losses, and capital; B and C are each to have 25% interests. As part of the basic business transaction, shortly after formation, the partnership distributes \$500 to A. What are the tax consequences to A and the partnership as a result of this transaction?

(i) How would your analysis change if the distribution to equalize capital accounts occurred one year after formation? Three years after formation? Numbers are not necessary.

(ii) Suppose, instead of distributing \$500 cash, the partnership purchased a bond for \$500. According to the partnership agreement, A is allocated 99% of all income, gain and loss from the bond. All other partnership items are allocated 50-25-25. Three years after formation, the bond is distributed to A.

2. Assume the same facts in #1, except that the property is worth \$4000 and is subject to a \$2000 recourse mortgage, and there is no distribution planned. Assume, in the alternative,

- (i) The mortgage was incurred five years ago to finance another investment;
- (ii) The mortgage was incurred last year to acquire the property;
- (iii) The mortgage was incurred last year to make capital improvements on the property;
- (iv) The mortgage was incurred three days before the partnership was formed; the proceeds were used to acquire stock.

3. How would your answer change to 2(iv) change if the mortgage were nonrecourse?

4. How would your answer change to 2 (i) if the property were worth \$4500 and A received \$500 cash distribution from the partnership at the time of contribution?

5. In *Otey*, discussed on pages 309-10 in **LOGIC**, the taxpayer, T, contributed property with a value of \$65,000 and a basis of \$18,000 to a partnership in exchange for a 50% partnership interest. The other partner contributed no capital. Shortly after formation, the partnership borrowed \$870,000 and, as contemplated, distributed \$65,000 to T. How would this transaction be treated under the current regulations?

6. Four years ago, X, Y, and Z formed an equal partnership to which X contributed Blackacre (value = \$1000, basis = \$600), Y contributed nonmarketable securities (value = \$1000, basis = \$200), and Z contributed \$1000 cash. The partnership used the cash to buy Greenacre. All three assets are capital assets in the partnership's hands. On January 1 of this year, the partnership's balance sheet is as follows:

Asset	Basis	Book	FMV
Blackacre	\$600	\$1000	\$1500
Greenacre	1000	1000	1500
Securities	200	1000	1500

  

Capital Accounts	
Tax	Book
X \$600	\$1000
Y 200	1000
Z 1000	1000

On the current date, the following alternative distributions take place. What are the tax consequences to all parties of each of distribution?

- Z receives Blackacre in complete liquidation of her interest in the partnership. How would your answer change, if at all, if Blackacre were worth only \$800 on the date of distribution?
- Y receives Greenacre in complete liquidation of her interest in the partnership.
- Y receives Blackacre in complete distribution of her interest in the partnership.