

Long Island Business NEWS

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SANDERS THALER VIOLA & KATZ, LLP

In Vogue with International Tax

Behind the hustle and bustle of photo shoots, catwalks, TV spots and travel schedules, entertainers/models must keep their tax documentation in order. While taxes aren't as glamorous as the celebrity lifestyle, Sanders Thaler Viola & Katz, LLP — a Certified Public Accounting firm with offices in Jericho and New York City — keeps the task of filing taxes chic as the firm directs them through state and international tax laws, regulations and other unique issues that face this niche industry.

“When handling an actor/actress/model you have several tax issues to consider,” said Sanders Thaler Viola & Katz Senior Partner Eliot H. Lehenhart, CPA. “There are state residency issues, international residency issues and other unique tax law issues that need to be addressed. For example, you have to focus on the uniqueness of each client and the uniqueness of the tax laws because Denmark is different than Norway, which is different from South Africa.”

With more than 30 years of providing tax, accounting and business management services to the entertainment/fashion model, medical and

sports industries, Lehenhart is a specialist in the different aspects of foreign and domestic tax issues.

“Sanders Thaler has an entire division focused on the model/entertainment industry,” he said.

“When preparing your taxes, it is important to find a firm that handles your specific industry.

“While the firm serves a wide range of individuals and business clients, we understand the specific tax issues, audits and other details exclusive to the model/entertainment business, in addition to providing personal and business management services. It is distinctly different than the typical Long Islander who has mortgage interest and real estate taxes.”

In that respect, many fashion models are foreign and not U.S. residents, he noted.

“There is a whole formula we need to look into,” he said.

“We look at the number of days they spend in the country and state. We look at what to do if the client is in the country for more than half the year. We also work with the model's accountant in his/her home country and coordinate a plan of action.”

To assist model/entertainers, Sanders Thaler also provides a Tax Deduction for Fashion Models, Entertainers & Related Fields worksheet on its website, which provides guidelines and rules for business expenses applicable to fashion models, entertainers

and people in other related fields.

“We encourage those in the entertainment/modeling field to visit our website and review the worksheet,” Lehenhart said. “We are constantly changing the worksheet to keep up with the times, regulations, etc.”



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Sanders Thaler offers a variety of other services as well, including Income tax preparation for all types of businesses, individuals, and not-for-profits; business startup services; bookkeeping and accounting services; business financial statement preparation; attestation engagements including audits, reviews and compilations; audit representation for IRS, states, and both federal and state Departments of Labor for businesses and individuals; business tax filings, including payroll and sales tax; merger and acquisition services.

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