CPA Practice **Advisor**

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

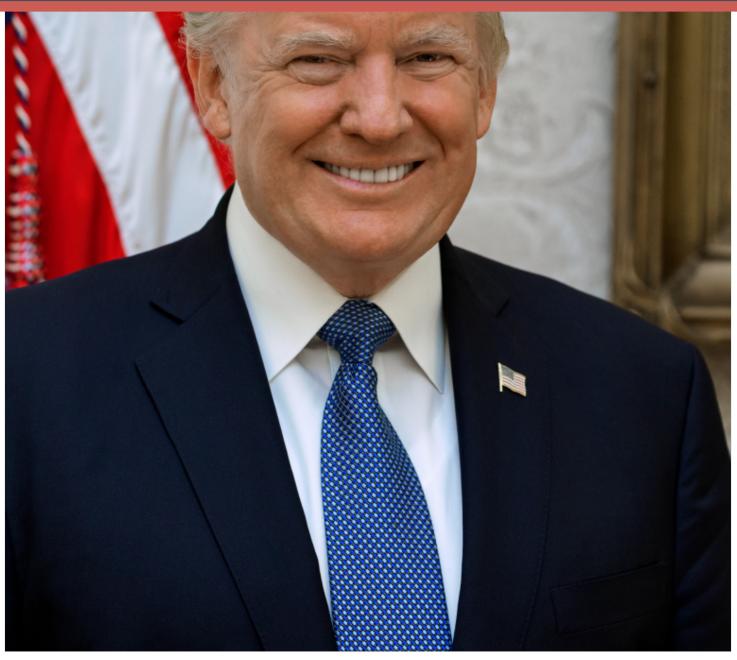
examination.

Nov. 22, 2022



Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us



Official White House photo from 2018.

By Molly Crane-Newman, New York Daily News (via TNS).

NEW YORK — The Trump Organization's longtime tax accountant told a Manhattan jury Tuesday that had he fully understood how the company paid its executives, he would've had a heart attack.

Donald Bender, a partner at Mazars USA LLP, was the first witness to testify for the

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

Bender said Weisselberg gave him the false impression he did legitimate work for some of the entities as an independent contractor. The accountant testified that he didn't know Trump's company was paying its CFO's rent, utilities and parking garage fees as part of his compensation from 2005 to 2017 — nor that it paid him thousands in cash for Christmas tips for his doorman and furniture for his Florida home. Weisselberg didn't pay taxes on any of it.

Assistant District Attorney Susan Hoffinger asked Bender how he was sure he'd never seen spreadsheets detailing how the company paid Weisselberg and other executives tens of thousands of dollars in extra compensation.

"Because I probably would've had a heart attack," Bender told Hoffinger on crossexamination.

Bender prepared the Trump Organization's taxes for about 35 years before his firm cut ties with the business in 2021 because it could no longer rely on the company statements of financial condition. The tax preparer also filed Trump's taxes from 2011 to 2018 and handled Weisselberg's and his son's taxes for several years.

"There were some other people I may have done favors for," said Bender. "Trump's bodyguard for a number of years, Trump's bodyguard's son."

Bender's testimony that Trump reported almost \$200 million in losses in 2010 and \$700 million in 2009 marked the first time those numbers have been confirmed publicly since a September 2020 exposé in the New York Times.

The Trump Organization, a holding company that manages around 500 Trumpowned entities, and its subsidiary Trump Payroll Corporation have pleaded not guilty to criminal tax fraud, falsification of business records, conspiracy and other related charges. They face about \$1.7 million in fines if convicted — a fraction of

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

©2022 New York Daily News. Visit nydailynews.com. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

IRS • Taxes

CPA Practice Advisor is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors.

@ 2024 Firmworks, LLC. All rights reserved