

UNITED STATES TAX COURT
WASHINGTON, DC 20217

ROBERT BRUCE BLACKMER,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Docket No. 8091-19S.
)	
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE,)	
)	
Respondent)	

ORDER

Petitioner Robert Bruce Blackmer filed his petition a year ago on May 20, 2019. On May 20, 2020, the Commissioner filed a status report that states: “On April 28, 2020, respondent’s counsel and petitioner discussed the case and status reports telephonically, and petitioner stated that he will hire an attorney two months before the trial and that the case is not susceptible to settlement at this time.” The Court advises Mr. Blackmer that he should not delay by planning to “hire an attorney two months before the trial”. Experience teaches that by that time, it would be too late for the new attorney to prepare the case for trial. The new attorney would want to propose that the trial date be continued so that he can properly prepare the case, but Rule 133, sent. 5, provides: “[E]mployment of new counsel ordinarily will not be regarded as ground for continuance.” Mr. Blackmer should either handle this case himself without counsel or should now hire counsel promptly. It is

ORDERED that respondent’s counsel shall, no later than June 26, 2020, serve on Mr. Blackmer the informal requests for information that are appropriate in light of the parties’ February 2020 Branerton conference. It is further

SERVED May 22 2020

ORDERED that, no later than August 31, 2020, the parties shall file a joint status report or, if that is not expedient, then separate reports.

(Signed) David Gustafson
Judge

Dated: Washington, D.C.
May 22, 2020