

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
No. 14-60910  
Summary Calendar  
\_\_\_\_\_

United States Court of Appeals  
Fifth Circuit

**FILED**  
June 25, 2015  
Lyle W. Cayce  
Clerk

CHARLES T. BRUCE; MARY A. BRUCE,

Petitioners-Appellants

v.

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE,

Respondent-Appellee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appeal from the United States Tax Court  
Internal Revenue Service  
No. 29005-10  
\_\_\_\_\_

Before REAVLEY, DENNIS, and SOUTHWICK, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:\*

The only argument made by the Petitioners—that the limitations bar applies because the deficiency notice was issued more than three years after the tax return—is meritless. As the Tax Court reasoned, Tax Court Rule 39 expressly requires that a taxpayer specifically allege in their pleading that the period of limitations has run. The Petitioners acknowledge that they did not raise this affirmative defense in their petition. Accordingly, the Tax Court

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\* Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

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concluded that the taxpayers waived any dispute as to the applicability of the three-year limitations period by not timely raising the issue. *Accord Markwardt v. Comm'r of Internal Revenue*, 64 T.C. 989, 997 (1975).

The Tax Court noted that it has the discretion to consider an issue that was not timely raised, but that it generally does not do so where the party raises the issue for the first time on brief and the court's consideration of the issue would unfairly prejudice the opposing party. The Tax Court further found that to exercise its discretion and consider the statute of limitations issue in this case would unfairly prejudice the Commissioner because the Commissioner had entered into a stipulation with the Petitioners based upon the valid assumption that the statute of limitations was not at issue because it had not been pleaded. We agree with the reasoning and conclusions of the Tax Court.

Accordingly, the judgment of the Tax Court is AFFIRMED.