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#### **Your Presenter Today**

FERENCZY



S. Derrin Watson, J.D., APM



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define   di'fain   v.tr. 1 give the exact meaning of (a one's position). 3 make else
word etc.). 2 describe on the exact many
word etc.). 2 describe or explain the scope of (define one's position). 3 make clear, esp. in outline (well-position). 4 mark out the boundary or (well-position).
DEFINITIONS . 4 mark out the boundary or limits  Catch-up (of properties) make up the total character of
Costs un aligible participant adj. denner n. [ME f. OF definer ult
Elective deferral Ire (as DE-, tinire finish, f. finis end)
Applicable limits e /'definit/ adj. 1 having exact and discerni

P 'With respect to an applicable employer plan, catch-up contributions are

P elective deferrals

P made by a catch-up eligible participant

that exceed any ... applicable [limit]

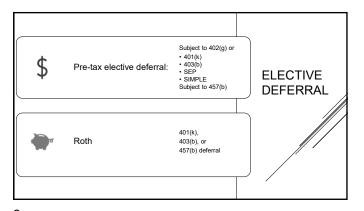
P and that are treated under the applicable employer plan as catch-up contributions,

D but only to the extent they do not exceed the catch-up contribution limit."

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# Policable employer plans can offer catch-ups APPLICABLE EMPLOYER PLAN Policable employer plan → 401(k) plan → SIMPLE IRA → SARSEP → 403(b) plan → 457(b) governmental plan → Not tax-exempt 457 → Not 457(f)

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#### Catch-up Eligible Participant



- ▶ Is eligible to make elective deferrals during the calendar year without regard to catch-up rules
  - ▶ 401(k) plan X says HCEs can defer 0% of comp
    - ▶ Allows catch-ups
    - ▶ No HCE is catch-up eligible
- ▶ Will turn (or has turned) 50 before end of calendar year
  - ▶ Participants born before 1972 satisfy this requirement for 201/1/

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- ▶ Sam was born November 1, 1971
- ► He is an HCE in a 401(k) plan with a June 30 plan year
- ► For the plan year ending 6/30/21, Sam had a \$6,500 catch-up
- ▶ Sam dies 8/1/21
- ► Sam is catch-up eligible for all of 2021 since that is the year his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday would have occurred

**EXAMPLE: AGE 50** 



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#### **Applicable Limits**

- ▶Statutory limit
  - ▶ 401(a)(30); 402(g); 457(b)
    - ▶ \$19,500 for 2021
    - ▶ \$13,500 for SIMPLE
  - ▶415 annual additions
    - ▶ \$58,000 for 2021
- ▶ Employer-provided limit
- ▶ADP limit
  - ▶ Only applies to HCEs



۰	A \$3,000 catch-up would result in
	2021 from the each of the following:

- ► Mary defers \$22,500 to 401(k), SEP, 403(b), or 457(b)
- ► Chris defers \$16,500 to SIMPLE 401(k) plan or SIMPLE IRA
- ► John defers \$11,000 to 401(k) and employer allocates \$50,000 profit sharing contribution to John

EXAMPLE: STATUTORY LIMITS

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#### Employer-provided limit

- ▶Terms of plan specifically limit deferral elections
  - ▶ Common in pre-EGTRRA documents
  - ▶ Much more rare today except for HCEs
- ▶Plan may limit HCEs but not NHCEs
  - ▶ Often used to avoid test failures
- ▶Example:
  - ▶ Plan says HCEs cannot defer more than 6% of compensation
  - ▶ Sue, age 51, has \$200,000 comp
  - ► Sue can defer \$12,000 + \$6,500 = \$18,500

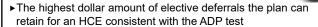
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#### How does an employer provide a limit?



- ▶ Contained in the terms of the plan, or
- ▶ Otherwise permissible under 401(k) plan
- ▶ Example: Plan allows administrator to set an HCE limit at start of year
- That is contained in terms of plan and is an employer-provided limit.
- ► No go: Plan has no limits, but company sends memo to HCEs asking them not to defer more than 6%
  - ▶ That is not an employer-provided limit

#### **ADP Limit**



► For a SARSEP, the ADP limit is the highest rate of elective deferrals that an HCE can make under the rules of section 408(k)(6)

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#### ADP Limit Example

- ► Plan fails 2021 ADP test and plan corrects by returning HCE deferrals exceeding \$10,000
- ▶Mary, 55, an HCE, deferred \$12,000
- ▶Keep the \$2,000 in the plan
  - ▶ It's a catch-up

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#### No options here

- ▶The law does not give an option
  - ▶ Who receives distributions of excess contributions
  - ▶ Whose deferrals are recharacterized as catch-ups
  - ▶ Distribute instead of recharacterize

Participant	Age	Deferral	Excess	Distribute	Recharacterize	r
Wanda	45	\$19,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	
William	50	\$16,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	
			•			•

#### What Is a Catch-Up?

- ► Applicable plan
- Plan accepts deferrals
   Plan accepts catch-ups
- ▶ Deferral from catch-up eligible participant ▶ 50 by December 31
- ▶ Exceed any applicable limit
  - ► 402(g)

  - ► ADP
- ▶ Up to catch-up limit
- ➤ \$6,500 in 2020 and 2021

  ➤ Indexed for inflation in \$500 jumps

  ➤ Total deferrals can't exceed 100% of comp

  - ► Crucial issue for self-employed



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#### Aggregate catch-ups

- ►Add all catch-ups in all plans maintained by a single employer or a controlled group, ASG, etc. to determine if the catchup limit is exceeded
  - ▶ Disregard plans of unrelated employers
- ▶One exception 457 plans are separate

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#### Limited choices

- ▶Plan choice:
  - ► Allow catch-ups
  - ▶ Not allow catch-ups
- ▶Participant choice
  - ▶ Whether to defer
  - ► How much to defer
- ▶Everything else is automatic



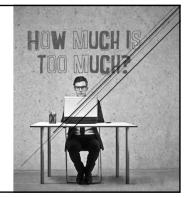
#### Automation in action

- ▶ Salary Reduction Agreement
  - ▶ Regular: \$5,000
  - ► Catch-up: \$2,000
- ▶It's simply \$7,000 of deferrals
- ► If it doesn't exceed an applicable limit, it isn't a catch-up
- ►Doug (55) deferred \$10,000
- ►ADP limit = \$8,000
- ►Must keep \$2,000 in plan
  - ► Can't give it back to Dadg
  - ► Can't give Doug the option



# A TALE OF TWO LIMITS

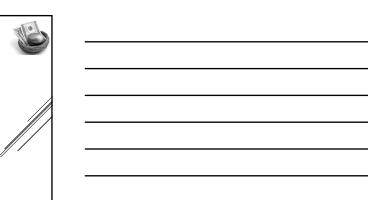
402(g) 401(a)(30)



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#### 402(g) limits participants

- ▶Thou shalt not defer more than \$19,500
  - ▶ If you do, you cannot exclude the excess from income
    - ► And you don't get basis if it's Roth
  - ▶ Combines all plans from all employers
    - ▶ Related or not
    - ► Exception 457(b)
- ▶Catch-up can allow participant to defer \$26,000



#### 401(a)(30) limits plans



- ▶Thou shalt not allow a participant to defer more than \$19,500
  - ▶ Operational failure if the plan violates 401(a)(30)
- ▶ Aggregate all plans of all RELATED employers
  - ▶ Disregard plans of unrelated employers
  - ▶ 457(b) plans separate
- ► Catch-up can allow a plan to permit deferrals of \$26,000 without an operational failure

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#### Examples: 45-year-old



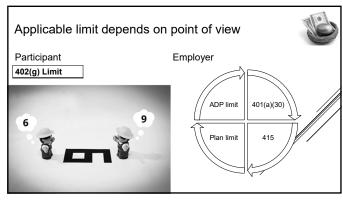
- ► Adam, defers \$26,000 to XYZ 401(k)
  - ▶ Adam can only exclude \$19,500; taxable on \$6,500
  - ► XYZ 401(k) has operational failure
- ▶Betty defers \$13,000 to XYZ 401(k) and to XYZ 403(b)
  - ▶ Betty can only exclude \$19,500; taxable on \$6,500
  - ▶ Plans have operational failure
- ▶ Carl, 45 defers \$13,000 to XYZ 401(k) and to ABC 401(k)
  - ► Carl can only exclude \$19,500; taxable on \$6,500
  - ► Neither plan has operational failure under Code §401(a)(30)
  - ▶ Plan can allow \$6,500 distribution to Carl if he requests it
    - ▶ Deadline is April 15

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#### Examples: 50-year-old

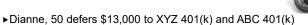


- ► Adam, defers \$26,000 to XYZ 401(k)
  - ► Adam and XYZ recognize \$6,500 catch-up
- ▶Betty defers \$13,000 to XYZ 401(k) and to XYZ 403(b)
  - ▶ Adam and XYZ recognize \$6,500 catch-up
  - ▶ Plan can decide which plan credits the catch-up
- ▶Carl, 45 defers \$13,000 to XYZ 401(k) and to ABC 401(k)
  - ► Adam recognizes \$6,500 catch-up
  - ▶ Neither plan recognizes catch-up because neither plan has 401(a)(30) failure



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#### Example (2021 calendar plan year)



- ▶\$6,500 catch-up based on 402(g)
- ▶ Neither plan recognizes a catch-up
- ▶XYZ and ABC each make \$50,000 PS contribution for Dianne,
  - ► Total annual additions in each plan \$63,000
  - ▶ Each plan recognizes a \$5,000 catch-up from 415
    - ▶ 2021 limit is \$58,000

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#### 457(b) plans

- ▶Governmental 457(b) plans can permit age 50 catch-ups
- ▶Tax-exempt 457(b) plans cannot
- ▶Double your catch-ups, double your fun
  - ▶ Prof. Rocky participates in Wossamatta U 403(b) and 457(b)
    - ► Governmental university
  - ▶ Rocky can defer \$26,000 to each in 2021



# WHEN IS IT A CATCH-UP?

Timing is everything



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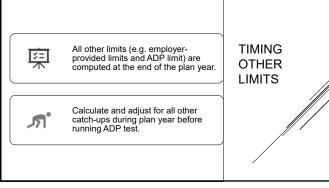
# **Timing Contribution Limits**

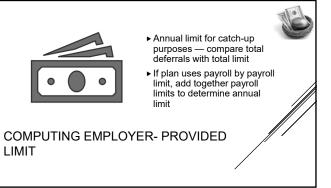
- ➤ Determine if a contribution exceeds 401(a)(30) or similar limit when contribution made.
- ► Example: In 2021 Edna (55) defers \$2,000/ month to her company's 401(k) plan
  - ► January through September deferrals (total=\$18,000) are "regular" deferrals
  - ▶ October deferral is \$1,500 regular and \$500 catch-up
  - ▶ November and December deferrals are catch-ups

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#### **TIMING 415 LIMITS**

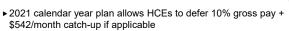
- ► A plan determines if deferrals exceed the 415 limit at the end of the limitation year
  - ▶ Generally, that's the same as the plan year





# Employer limit alternatives ➤ Can add each month's limit ➤ Can use weighted average for year ➤ Can calculate compensation based on ADP compensation even if different compensation definition used for limit

### Example: Computing employer limit



- ▶ Plan changes May 1, 2021 to drop the limit to 7%
- ► Adam:
  - ► Comp. \$5,000/month through June 30
  - ► Comp. \$6,000/month July December
  - ► Always defers \$600/month (\$7,200 total)



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#### Payday computations

Month	Comp	%	Limit
Jan	5,000	10	500
Feb	5,000	10	500
Mar	5,000	10	500
Apr	5,000	10	500
May	5,000	7	350
June	5,000	7	350
July	6,000	7	420
Aug	6,000	7	420
Sep	6,000	7	420
Oct	6,000	7	420
Nov	6,000	7	420
Dec	6,000	7	420
Total	66,000	8	5220

- ► Catch-up adding monthly limits = \$7,200 - \$5,220 = \$1,980
- ► Weighted average limit = 8% X \$66,000 = \$5,280
- ▶ Weighted average catch-up = \$1,920

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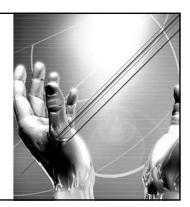
#### Example: Comp definition

- ► Cold Molasses, Inc. limits HCEs to deferring 10% of gross compensation (plus catch-ups)
- ▶ Plan computes ADP on comp net of deferrals
- ▶ In 2021, Elmer defers \$11,000
  - ► Gross comp: \$100,000
  - ► ADP comp: \$89,000

	Gross Comp	ADP Comp
Limit	\$10,000	\$8,900
Catch-up	\$1,000	\$2,100
ADR	11.24%	10%



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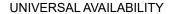
#### NONDISCRIMINATION

Universal Availability

- Participants
- Plans
- Limits

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- ► All catch-up eligible participants in all applicable plans sponsored by the employer must have an <u>effective</u> <u>opportunity</u> to make the same dollar amount of catch-up contributions
  - ► Or else plan fails 401(a)(4) nondiscrimination





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#### All plans of employer

- ▶ If one plan of an employer offers catch-ups, then all applicable plans of controlled group must offer catch-ups simultaneously
- ► Doesn't apply during 410(b)(6)(C) transition period if new member joins group

#### 457 exception

- ▶457 plans are separate from other plans for catch-ups
- ► Example: Red Ink School District sponsors a 403(b) and a 457(b) plan. The District can accept catch-ups in the 403(b) and not the 457(b), or vice versa

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#### Universal Availability Within the Plan



- ▶ Plan fails universal availability if there is any applicable limit that a catch-up eligible participant cannot exceed
- ► Example: Plan limits total deferral to 10% of gross pay each pay period
  - ► Plan fails universal availability because there is no way to exceed 10% limit

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#### Permitted provisions



- ▶ Limit deferrals to % of pay plus portion of catch-up limit
- ▶ Limit total deferrals to net paycheck
- ▶ Limit total deferrals to 75% (or more) of gross pay
- ▶ Have an employer limit on HCEs and not NHCEs
  - ▶ But can't have different limits on catch-up eligible and others

#### Union employees

► Plan can exclude collectively bargained employees from catch-ups without violating universal availability.



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- ► Can't use "otherwise excludable employee" rule to avoid providing catch-ups for newly hired
- ► Can't use QSLOB rule to exclude separate business units

NO HELP HERE

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EFFECTS OF CATCH-UP RULES



### Catch-ups don't count for Code limits



- ► Catch-up (for whatever reason) does not count for 401(a)(30) or 415
- ► Example: Oswald, age 60, defers \$26,000 in 2021 (\$6,500 catch-up)
  - ▶ Only \$19,500 of deferrals count for 415
  - ▶ Plan can allocate \$38,500 employer contribution

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#### ADP and Catch-up



- ▶ If an elective deferral is characterized as a catch-up because it exceeded a statutory limit (§401(a)(30) or §415) or an employer-provided limit, then
  - ▶ Do not include the deferral in calculating the participant's ADR
    - ► True for HCEs and NHCEs
  - ➤ Do not consider the deferral in "leveling" excess contributions to correct failed ADP

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#### ADP Example



- ► HCE earns \$200,000
- ► Employer-provided limit is 6% of pay, \$12,000
- ► HCE defers \$15,000



- ► Catch-up: \$3,000
- ► ADR = 6% = \$12,000/\$200,000
- ▶ If plan fails ADP, for leveling purposes HCE has \$12,000 of deferrals



- ▶ If excess deferrals would be distributed to a catch-up eligible participant who has unused catch-up limit available, then the plan must retain the deferrals, up to the limit
- ► In effect, the deferrals are "recharacterized" as catch-ups

#### ADP RECHARACTERIZATION

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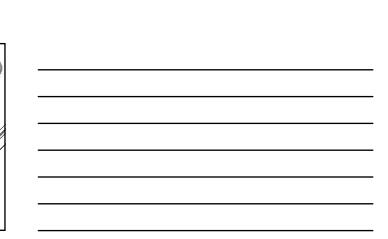
#### ADP Example

- ► Marion
  - ► Born 11/1/66
  - ► HCE
  - ► Comp: \$250,000
  - ▶ 2020 Defer: \$22,000
    - ▶ \$2,500 catch-up
  - ► ADR 7.8%
    - ► \$19,500/\$250,000
- ▶ Plan fails 2020 ADP
  - ► Return HCE deferrals > \$12,000
- ► Marion \$7,500 over limit
  - ► Recharacterize \$4,000 as catch-up
  - ▶ Return \$3,500 plus earnings
  - ► 401(a)(30): \$16,500

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#### Top-heavy

- ► Don't count catch-ups in top-heavy test in the year the contribution is made
  - ► Catch-up contributions for prior years are taken into account for purposes of top-heavy tests
  - ▶ Little practical effect
- ▶No separate recordkeeping bucket required



# Average benefit percentage test

TO.

- ➤ Don't count catch-up in year contribution is made when determining the average benefit percentage
- ► Catch-up contributions for prior years are taken into account for purposes of section 410(b)

Category	Amount
Deferral	\$26,000
ER Contribution	\$38,500
Total	\$64,500
Less Catch-up	\$6,500
Adjusted Total	\$58,000
Compensation	\$200,000
Avg Benefit %	29%

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# MATCHING CATCH-UPS

Surprisingly tricky



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#### Can a plan choose whether to match catch-ups?

- ► Traditional plan:
  - ▶ Plan can choose
  - ▶ Look at document
  - ► Not discriminatory either way
  - ► If document is silent, then it matches catch-ups
  - ▶ All match in ACP test
- ► Safe harbor plan:
  - ► Must match catch-ups same as other deferrals
    - ▶ ADP SH match
    - ► ACP SH match



# How to avoid matching catch-ups



- ▶ "Plan will match elective deferrals up to 401(a)(30) limit and employer-provided limit."
- ▶Wrong:
  - ▶ This plan does not match catch-ups

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# **MULTI-YEAR** FISCAL YEAR **EXAMPLE**

Calendar years certainly make catch-ups easier



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#### The facts

- ▶ Jo (55) starts work at Complex 1/1/19
- ► Complex 401(k) plan:
  - ▶ 10/31 plan year end
  - ► Immediate entry
- ► No employer provided limit
- ▶ Jo's comp. = \$240,000/year
- ► Deferrals:
  - ▶ \$1,000/month in 2019 (\$12,000/year)
  - ▶ \$2,000/month 2020 and 2021 (\$24,000/year

Limits	2019	2020	2021
402(g)	\$19,000	\$19,500	\$19,500
Catch-up	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,500
ADP	\$15,000	\$18,000	\$16,000
Jo defers	\$12,000	\$24,000	\$24,000

#### 2019: No catch-ups

► PYE 10/31/19 Deferrals: \$10,000

▶ 2019 CY Deferrals: \$12,000

- ▶ Jo isn't HCE in 2019
- ▶ 2019 402(g) limit is \$19,000



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# Plan Year Ending 10/31/20

Period	Deferred
11/1/19 – 12/31/19	\$2,000
1/1/20 - 10/31/20	\$20,000
Total Deferrals	\$22,000

Catch-ups	Amount
401(a)(30)	\$500
Total	\$500

- ► Deferrals in ADP test: \$21,500
- ► ADR = \$21,500/\$240,000 = 8.96%

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# Plan Year Ending 10/31/20

Period	Deferred
11/1/19 - 12/31/19	\$2,000
1/1/20 - 10/31/20	\$20,000
Total Deferrals	\$22,000

Catch-ups	Amount
401(a)(30)	\$500
ADP	\$3,500
Total	\$4,000

- ▶ Deferrals in ADP test: \$21,500
- ► ADR = \$21,500/\$240,000 = 8.96%
- ► ADP Limit is \$18,000
- ► Excess deferrals = \$21,500 \$18,000 = \$3,500
  - ▶ Recharacterized as catch-ups

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# Comparison 401(a)(30) vs 402(g) 10/31/2020



Deferred
\$20,000
\$4,000
\$16,000
\$3,500
\$2,500
\$6,000

Jo	Amount	
Deferrals	\$20,000	
Catch-up	\$500	
402(g)	\$19,500	
Unused 402(g)	\$0	
Unused Catch-up	\$6,000	
Deferral available	\$6,000	

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#### Finish 2020



Through 10/31	Deferred
Deferrals	\$20,000
Catch-up	\$4,000
401(a)(30)	\$16,000
Unused 401(a)(30)	\$3,500
Unused Catch-up	\$2,500
Deferral available	\$6,000

Nov. Dec. 2020	Amount
Deferrals	\$4,000
401(a)(30) defer	\$3,500
401(a)(30) catch-up	\$500
Unused 401(a)(30)	\$0
Unused Catch-up	\$2,000
Deferral available	\$2,000

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# Plan Year Ending 10/31/21



Period	Deferred
11/1/20 - 12/31/20	\$4,000
1/1/21 – 10/31/21	\$20,000
Total Deferrals	\$24,000

Deferrals in ADP	Amount
Total Deferral	\$24,000
12/2020 401(a)(30) catch-up	\$500
2021 401(a)(30) catch-up	\$500
Deferrals in ADP	\$23,000

2021 Catch-ups	Amount
401(a)(30)	\$500
Total	\$500

7 00 3 ADIN. \$23,000/\$240,000 - 9.30/0
► ADP Limit = \$16,000
► Recharacterize \$6,000 as catch-sp
► Distribute \$1,000 of excess contributions

# Comparison 401(a)(30) vs 402(g) 10/31/2021

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Plan	Deferred
Deferrals	\$20,000
Catch-up	\$6,500
401(a)(30)	\$13,500
Unused 401(a)(30)	\$6,000
Unused Catch-up	\$0
Deferral available	\$6,000

Jo	Amount
Deferrals	\$20,000
Catch-up	\$500
402(g)	\$19,500
Unused 402(g)	\$0
Unused Catch-up	\$6,000
Deferral available	\$6,000

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#### Finish 2021



Plan	Deferred
Deferrals	\$20,000
Catch-up	\$6,500
401(a)(30)	\$13,500
Unused 401(a)(30)	\$6,000
Unused Catch-up	\$0
Deferral available	\$6,000

ı	Nov. Dec. 2021	Amount	
)	Deferrals	\$4,000	
)	401(a)(30) defer	\$4,000	
)	401(a)(30) catch-up	\$0	/
)	Unused 401(a)(30)	\$2,000	/
)	Unused Catch-up	\$0	
,	Deferral available	\$2,000	
_			

► All \$4,000 of Jo's November and December deferrals will count in the 2022 ADP test

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#### Thank you!

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- ▶ sderrin@gmail.com
- ► Derrin's books are available at ERISApedia.com
  - ► Who's the Employer (8<sup>th</sup> ed)
  - ▶ 403(b) Plan eSource
  - ▶ 457 Plan eSource
  - ► Plan Correction eSource (with Ilene Ferenczy and Alison Cohen)

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#### For Further Study



Joanne Pecina will demonstrate how to find more information on today's topic from the ERISApedia.com resources.



