

IF BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON HAS SO MANY TAX SHELTERS IT DOESN'T PAY TAXES, HOW IS IT NY'S "MAIN STREET"?

Company, ranked by executive comp	CEO	Compensation		Taxes				
		Total executive compensation, 2010 (\$)	% change over 2009	U.S. corporate income taxes, 2010 (\$mil)	U.S. Pre-Tax Income, 2010 (\$mil)	Effective federal tax rate (%)	U.S. corporate income taxes, 2009 (\$mil)	Subsidies in tax form
Stanley Black & Decker*	John Lundgren	32,572,596	253%	-75	\$183	NMF	-1	50
Ford	Alan Mulally	26,529,515	46%	-89	\$4,097	-1.7	-274	3
Chesapeake Energy	Aubrey McClendon	21,644,852	15%	0	\$2,894	0.0	4	0
Aon	Gregory Case	20,783,201	100%	16	\$21	76.2	32	126
Bank of New York Mellon	Robert Kelly	19,379,257	73%	-870	\$2,383	-28.4	289	10
Coca-Cola Enterprises	John F. Brock	19,114,319	71%	8	\$746	1.1	0	4
Verizon	Ivan Seidenberg	18,128,854	4%	-705	\$11,921	-5.9	-611	0
Dow Chemical	Andrew Liveris	17,739,460	13%	-576	\$921	NMF	85	64
Prudential Financial	John Strangfield	16,187,028	10%	-722	\$2,407	-30.0	-49	36
Ameriprise	James Cracchiolo	16,252,851	-11%	-224	\$1,430	-15.7	199	7
Honeywell	David Cote	15,218,653	15%	-471	\$1,249	-37.7	-27	5
General Electric	Jeff Immelt	15,186,762	172%	-3,253	\$5,078	-64.1	-833	14
Allegheny Technologies	Patrick Hassey	14,678,587	46%	-47	\$87	-54.0	-91	0
Mylan Laboratories	Robert Coury	14,675,235	27%	-73	\$273	NMF	43	32
Capital One Financial	Richard Fairbank	14,650,675	144%	-152	\$3,804	-4.0	278	0
Wynn Resorts Ltd.	Steve Wynn	14,615,779	74%	0	\$239	0.0	0	16
Marsh & McLennan	Brian Dupireault	14,038,187	1%	-60	\$296	NMF	-358	105
Boeing	Jim McNerney	13,758,019	0%	13	\$4,310	0.3	-132	42
Motorola Solutions**	Gregory G. Brown	13,732,882	82%	7	\$386	2.6	-314	8
Nabors Industries***	Eugene Ikenberg	13,537,488	-42%	-138	\$295	NMF	-15	1
Qwest Communications	Edward Mueller	13,448,399	12%	-14	\$450	-3.1	10	0
Caterpillar Systems	James Delan	13,329,891	-21%	-3	\$591	0.4	8	0
Motorola Mobility****	Sanjay Jha	13,015,126	245%	12	\$101	NMF	11	0
eBay	John J. Donahoe	12,362,488	22%	-131	\$946	-15.4	807	31
International Paper	John Faraci	12,303,423	75%	-249	\$196	-125.6	228	2
Total		417,161,772		-7,606	80,541		6,981	556
Average		18,684,071		-304	1,622		-39	
Median				-75		-4		
S&P 500 average		10,762,364						

Update: Kelly just stepped down, citing “differences in approach.”

A number of outlets have carried the report on the number of CEO's getting paid more than their companies paid in taxes last year, but few have linked to the actual report, which means just the usual suspects, like GE's Jeff Immelt, are getting the bulk of the focus.

Yet if you look at the appendices (pages 31-33—click the picture to the right to enlarge it), the report not only lists all the companies paying their CEOs more than they pay Uncle Sam, but provide details like the company's political spending.

Among those listed in the report not getting much attention is Bank of New York Mellon's CEO Robert Kelly, who got millions while his company

got a \$670 million tax refund.

Bank of New York Mellon CEO Robert Kelly took home \$19.4 million in 2010. The bank, the same year, claimed a \$670 million federal tax refund, despite \$2.4 billion in U.S. pre-tax income.

Kelly's compensation has skated above \$10 million during each of the past three years of financial crisis. The CEO artfully managed to avoid the salary limits President Obama's "pay czar" imposed on bailed-out banks by making sure Bank of New York Mellon repaid the taxpayer funds before those restrictions went into effect.²⁷ The bank raised the money to pay back its \$3 billion in TARP assistance by taking on uninsured debt, slashing dividends, and issuing new stock.²⁸

The Bank of New York Mellon, with 10 subsidiaries in tax havens, did not pay a dime in federal taxes in 2010. However, the banking giant did devote \$1.4 million to lobbying over the year. The bank's lobbyists worked diligently to exempt currency trading from new transparency and oversight rules.²⁹ In related news, officials from eight U.S. states are conducting inquiries or pursuing litigation against Bank of New York Mellon for ripping off state pension funds by overcharging for currency trades. The Securities and Exchange Commission and Justice Department are also investigating the allegations.

Screwing pension funds on currency trades is not the only anti-social behavior the federal government gave BNYM a refund to engage in. They're also the trustee on the controversial Bank of America settlement.

That's relevant because of the terms the settlement's chief defender, Kathryn Wylde, has used to defend it, particularly in the face of Eric Schneiderman's lawsuit to stop it.

The lawsuit angered Bank of New York Mellon,

and as Mr. Schneiderman was leaving the memorial service last week for Hugh Carey, the former New York governor who died Aug. 7, an attendee said Mr. Schneiderman became embroiled in a contentious conversation with Kathryn S. Wylde, a member of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York who represents the public. Ms. Wylde, who has criticized Mr. Schneiderman for bringing the lawsuit, is also chief executive of the Partnership for New York City.

[snip]

Characterizing her conversation with Mr. Schneiderman that day as “not unpleasant,” Ms. Wylde said in an interview on Thursday that she had told the attorney general “it is of concern to the industry that instead of trying to facilitate resolving these issues, you seem to be throwing a wrench into it. Wall Street is our Main Street – love ’em or hate ’em. They are important and we have to make sure we are doing everything we can to support them unless they are doing something indefensible.”

Now, as I’ve already pointed out, it’s sort of odd for Wylde to defend Bank of America, a North Carolina corporation, in her role as NYC’s chief booster.

But if BNYM is paying nothing in the US—rather is getting tax refunds—on its \$2.5 billion global profit, then presumably it’s a corporate resident of some other place, not New York, not the United States. So maybe, in addition to North Carolina, Wylde has added the Cayman Islands to the list of places whose corporations she defends as her own Main Street?

In any case, Wylde says Schneiderman shouldn’t sue to prevent BNYM’s scam settlement with BoA. Why is she protecting such a giant corporate deadbeat?