

IRS News Release

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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Members Selected

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service recommended and the Department of Treasury approved the selection of 29 new members to serve on the nationwide Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP). The TAP is a federal advisory committee charged with providing taxpayer suggestions to improve IRS customer service.

The new TAP members will join 46 returning members to round out the panel of 75 volunteers for 2015. The new members were selected from more than 400 interested individuals who applied during an open recruitment period last spring and the pool of alternate members who applied in prior years.

"Members of TAP volunteer their time to represent taxpayers and help the IRS understand their issues," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "The TAP plays an important role in sound tax administration."

The TAP listens to taxpayers, identifies issues and makes suggestions for improving IRS service and customer satisfaction. Oversight and program support for the TAP are provided by the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS that helps resolve taxpayer problems and makes administrative and legislative recommendations to mitigate systemic problems.

"To meet the needs of the taxpaying public, it is critical that the IRS listen to taxpayers to hear what their needs and preferences are," said Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate. "The citizen volunteers who serve on the TAP are, first and foremost, taxpayers who bring a taxpayer perspective to bear in advising on the IRS's taxpayer service activities."

TAP members work with IRS executives on a variety of topics, with an emphasis on those involving the Wage & Investment and Small Business/Self-Employed operating divisions. Members also serve as a conduit for bringing grassroots concerns raised by the taxpaying public to the attention of the IRS.

TAP members are U.S. citizens who volunteer to serve a three-year appointment and are expected to devote 200 to 300 hours per year to panel activities. TAP members are demographically and geographically diverse, providing balanced representation from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition, there is one TAP member from

abroad who represents the interests of taxpayers working, living, or doing business abroad or in a U.S. territory.

Taxpayers can contact the TAP representative for their geographic area by calling 888-912-1227 (a toll-free call) or via the Internet at www.improveirs.org. Taxpayers can also send written correspondence to the TAP at the following address:

Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)
 TA: TAP, Room 1509
 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20224

Individuals interested in volunteering to serve on the TAP for 2016 may submit an application via the website www.improveirs.org during the next open recruiting period, which will begin in March 2015.

A list of the new TAP members by location is included below.

Last name	First Name	City	State
Anderson	Kent	Salt Lake City	UT
Basciano	Dawn	Sacramento	CA
Belec	Steven	Boston	MA
Bennett	Ralph	Anacortes	WA
Berry	Josiah	Greenwood	IN
Bramowitz	Marsha	Pittsburgh	PA
Butler	Tabatha	Billings	MT
Cardona	Joe	San Juan	PR
Christensen	Richard	Boise	ID
Donathan	David	Springfield	KY
Green	William	New Castle	DE
Hary	Francesca	Riverside	OH
Jenks	Kathleen	Rutland	VT
Lubdell	Paul	Catonsville	MD
Lyon	Shelby	Geneva	Switzerland
Mattson	Merry	St. Paul	MN
McPhilamy	Sean	Talkeetna	AK
Meade	Larry	Sacramento	CA
Ogden	Joan	Salt Lake City	UT
Persons	Daniel	Brooklyn	NY
Prober	Joan	Voorhees	NJ
Reese	Gail	Buckeye	AZ
Sakoff	Sophia	Turner	OR
Spain	Angela	Durham	CA

Thompson	Sallie	New York	NY
Trafford	Pamela	Amherst	MA
Wallace	Scott	Zephyr Cove	NV
Wilson	LeAnna	Lenexa	KS
Xu	Shirley	Alexandria	VA