INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

IRS News Release

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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Members Selected

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today announced the selection of 32 new members to serve on the nationwide Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. The TAP is a federal advisory committee charged with providing direct taxpayer feedback to the IRS.

The new TAP members will join 70 returning members to round out the panel of 102 volunteers for 2011. The new members were selected from more than 500 interested individuals from all over the country who applied during an open recruitment period last spring.

“TAP members represent the nation’s taxpayers, both in what they want and what they need,” said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. “They provide the IRS with invaluable insights to ensure that the taxpaying public has a voice in the tax administration process. “

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 make recommendations to avoid future problems.

“It is extremely important that the IRS consider the needs and preferences of America’s taxpayers,” said Nina E. Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate. “The vital work of these citizen volunteers helps the IRS provide all taxpayers with the top quality service they deserve."

TAP members work with IRS executives on priority topics, primarily 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, along with recommendations for improvement.

TAP members are U.S. citizens who volunteer to serve a three-year appointment and are expected to devote 300 to 500 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.

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 1314
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20224

Individuals interested in volunteering to serve on the TAP for 2012 may submit an application via the website www.improveirs.org during the next open recruiting period, which will begin in March 2011.

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

Last name	First Name	City	State
Acero	Antonio	Myrtle Beach	SC
Baldwin	Barbara	Auburn	CA
Bekolo	Paulette Germain	Chapel Hill	NC
Bilancia	Richard	Loveland	CO
Brandewie	Shaun	Sidney	OH
Davine	Jeffrey	Los Angeles	CA
DelTergo	Michael	Westfield	NJ
Eng	Harry	St. Charles	IL
Fisher	Aileen	Burlingame	CA
Fishman	Annie	Rockwall	TX
Hayden	Robert	Monroe	MI
Hitchcock	Colleen	Lacey	WA
Janci	Gerald	Pittsboro	MS
Kalimeris	Angeliki	Woonsocket	RI
Kelly	Eileen	Wilmette	IL
Kendall	Edith	Marion	IA
Kennerty	Michael	Lawrenceville	GA
Levine	David	Reno	NV
Marshalek	Mark	Powell	OH
McPeak	Catherine	Plano	TX
Palmer	George	McLoud	OK
Perez	Santa	Las Vegas	NV
Petersen-Grosse	Chris	Elkhart	IN
Purkayastha	PK	Saline	MI
Rible	Robert	Santa Cruz	CA
Roy	Brian	Nashua	NH
Silva	Michael	North East	MD
Smith	Toni	Omaha	NE
Webster	Walter	Dauphin	PA
Wechter	Thomas	Glencoe	IL
Williams	Cindi	Summerset	SD
Wongshue	Lina	Orlando	FL