

IRS**News Release****Media Relations Office****Washington, D.C.****Tel. 202.622.4000****For Release: 10/8/02****Release No: IR-2002-107****TAXPAYER ADVOCACY PANEL MEMBERS SELECTED**

WASHINGTON – The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today announced the selection of 102 members who will serve on the new nationwide Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP). The panel members will listen to taxpayers, identify issues and make suggestions for improving IRS service and customer satisfaction.

“It is important to bring real-world experience to government operations,” said IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti. “Because of their wealth of experience, the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel members will bring important perspectives to help with tax administration.”

“The new panel members have an important job to make sure that the IRS provides world-class service to taxpayers. Now that we have expanded the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel to all 50 states, we can ensure that taxpayers from every corner of the country will have their voices heard,” said Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill.

Panel members will work with IRS executives on priority topics – primarily those involving the Wage and Investment Division and Small Business / Self Employed Division. Also, members serve as a conduit for grassroots issues from the public and provide that information to the IRS.

“We look forward to working with taxpayers in improving the customer-service focus of the IRS,” said Nina Olson, IRS National Taxpayer Advocate. “Working with taxpayers directly will help us identify issues that may not be on the IRS radar screen. We can also hear their concerns about issues the IRS is already addressing and become involved before decisions are made.”

TAP members are U.S. citizens who devote about 300 hours during the year to the panel. Professions represented on the panel include tax professionals (tax attorneys and accountants), professors, retired military, small business owners and one former state legislature member.

For the first time, the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will have membership from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Previously, the panel was called the Citizen Advocacy Panel (CAP), which was based in four regional locations and had members from 10 states. The Treasury Department, which sponsors the group, recommended expanding the program to include representation from all 50 states. Each state was allotted membership based on its taxpaying population.

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Taxpayers can contact their state representative to the Panel, by calling 1-888-912-1227 or via the internet at www.improveirs.org. Taxpayers can also write to the Panel and mail your correspondence to:

Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)
TA: TAP Room 3031 IR
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20224

[Editors, please note that a list of the new panel members is attached to this news release. The attached list includes 85 members who have been formally approved. Another 17 are in the final stages of approval.]

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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Members

ALABAMA

Francis (Buck) J. Paolone
Hoover

ALASKA

Bruce Twomley
Juneau

Sherry Whah
Anchorage

ARIZONA

Gregory J. Maciulla
Tucson

ARKANSAS

Steven Wood
Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

Norma Bishop
Santa Barbara

Yvonne Gallegos-Bodle
Oxnard

Curtis Feese
Covina

Cheyanna L. Jaffke
Placentia

Christopher Lowe
Placentia

Michelle Nelson
Mission Viejo

Howard Perkins
Suisun City

Charles Taylor
San Diego

COLORADO

Richard A. Cormier
Alamosa

DELAWARE

Patrick McCombie
Wilmington

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Theodore Perros

FLORIDA

Mary Lou Beyreis
Jacksonville

Gwen Handelman
Ft. Lauderdale

Edward Hanna
Temple Terrace

Keith Johnson
Jacksonville

Sharon Lassar
Miami

Owen Oatley'
Holly Hill

George Sullivan
N Fort Myers

GEORGIA

Charlotte Cassady
Talbotton

Tim D. Jarrell
Kennesaw

HAWAII

Clayton Agena
Honolulu

ILLINOIS

Robert M. Burke
Chicago

Robin Gausebeck
Rockford

Richard Greenberg
Hinsdale

Lawrence Lexow
Edwardsville

INDIANA

Carl Hansen
Indianapolis

Teresa Smedley
Salem

IOWA

Denise Bigger
Albia

KANSAS

Nan Wilson
Overland Park

LOUISIANA

Helen Curol
Lake Charles

MAINE

Catherine J. Kelly
Corinth

MARYLAND

George Pruchniewski
Baltimore

Faith Vinikoor
Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Charles W. Silva
Orleans

MICHIGAN

Leslie R. Malcolmson
Detroit

Nancy Quarles
Southfield

MINNESOTA

Laura De Marais
Minneapolis

Thomas P. Seuntjens
Wayzata

MISSISSIPPI

Phil Bryant
Brandon

MISSOURI

Linda Bader
Chesterfield

Kenneth Logan
Blue Springs

NEVADA

Justin Doucette
Las Vegas

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Abigail Alicea
Nashua

NEW JERSEY

Anthony DiMartino
Toms River

Robert Maziarz
Hainesport

David Meyer
Voorhees

Leonard Steinberg
West Windsor

NEW MEXICO

Mario Burgos
Cedar Crest

NEW YORK

Aimee Gomlak Brace
Buffalo

Walter Fish
Bellmore

James R. Grimaldi
Brooklyn

Paul Nagel
Glen Cove

Shamsey Oloko
Staten Island

NORTH CAROLINA

Mary Balmer
Chapel Hill

C. Morgan Edwards
Charlotte

NORTH DAKOTA

Paul W. Smathers
Edgeley

OHIO

Brig Gen. (ret) James Abraham, P.E.
Gahanna

Frank Claudman
Warrensville Heights

Thad Davis
Van Wert

OKLAHOMA

Patrick Castleberry
Oklahoma City

OREGON

Virginia Symonds
Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

Gerald G. Gensiejewski, Jr.
Newtown

Manning Mosley, III
Wayne

Doreen Scott
Pittsburgh

RHODE ISLAND

Diane Mignano
North Kingstown

SOUTH DAKOTA

John Hollingsworth
Aberdeen

TENNESSEE

Larry Barnard
Morristown

Linda Miller
Memphis

TEXAS

Maria J. Hermann-Pariente
El Paso

Rojeana Warren
Dallas

Lillian Woo
Bryan

UTAH

Sharon Stetz
Salt Lake City

VERMONT

Ekileen Shuman
Brattleboro

VIRGINIA

Karen Kerrigan
Vienna

Calvin K. Johnson
Norfolk

WASHINGTON

Christopher Forzano
Vancouver

Joseph Reder
Richland

WISCONSIN

Daniel Drumel
Wind Lake

Glenn Hall
Madison

Robert Meldman
Milwaukee