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Proceedings of the 2007 IRS Research Conference

Research
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Statistics

**2007 IRS Research Conference Program
June 13–14, Georgetown University Law School
McDonough Hall, Hart Auditorium**

DAY ONE: Wednesday, June 13

8:00–8:45 **Registration**

8:45–9:00 **Welcome**

Janet McCubbin, Research, Analysis, and Statistics,
Internal Revenue Service

9:00–9:30 **Keynote Address**

Eric Solomon, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy,
U.S. Department of the Treasury

9:30–10:45 **Panel Discussion:**

Optimal Tax Administration

Moderator:

Mark Mazur, Director of Research, Analysis, and
Statistics, Internal Revenue Service

Panelists:

Joel Slemrod, Professor and Director of the Office of Tax
Policy Research, University of Michigan

Alan Plumley, Research, Analysis, and Statistics,
Internal Revenue Service

Nina Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate,
Internal Revenue Service

10:45–11:05 **BREAK**

11:05–12:35 **Tax Policy and Tax Compliance**

Moderator:

Peter Adelsheim, Small Business and Self-Employed
Division, Internal Revenue Service

Papers:

- *Tax Simplification and Tax Compliance*, Wojciech Kopczuk, Columbia University
- *Tax Rate Preferences: Understanding the Effects of Perceived and Actual Current Tax Assessments*, Peggy Hite and Darius J. Fatemi, Indiana University, and John Hasseldine, University of Nottingham
- *Charitable Contributions in a Voluntary Compliance Income Tax System: Itemized Deductions versus Matching Subsidies*, Alex Turk and Maryamm Muzikir, Small Business and Self-Employed Division, Internal Revenue Service; Marsha Blumenthal, University of St. Thomas, and Laura Kalambokidis, University of Minnesota

Discussant:

Michael Desmond, U.S. Department of the Treasury

12:35-2:00

Lunch

2:00-3:30

Tax Practitioners—Perspectives and Impact**Moderator:**

Caroline Trinkwalder, Small Business and Self-Employed Division, Internal Revenue Service

Papers:

- *Evaluating Preparation Accuracy of Tax Practitioners: A Bootstrap Approach*, Michael Albert and Kim Bloomquist, Research, Analysis, and Statistics, and Ron Edgerton, Wage and Investment Division, Internal Revenue Service
- *Measuring the Impact of Taxpayer Representation on the Outcome of EITC Audits*, Jeff Wilson, Taxpayer Advocate Service, Internal Revenue Service
- *The Obstacles of Voluntary Compliance from the Taxpayer's Perspective*, Beanna Whitlock, National Society of Tax Professionals

Discussant:

John Scholz, Florida State University

3:30-3:50

BREAK

3:50-5:20 Disentangling the Tax Gap**Moderator:**

Kim Bloomquist, Research, Analysis, and Statistics,
Internal Revenue Service

Papers:

- *Models of Household Tax Under-Reporting and the NRP Examination Process*, Jonathan Feinstein, Yale School of Management, and Brian Erard, B. Erard & Associates
- *Book-Tax Consolidation Differences, Rates of Return and Capital Structure*, William B. Trautman, Large and Mid-Size Business Division, Internal Revenue Service, and Petro Lisowsky, Boston University
- *NRP—Methods and Plans*, Bob Brown and Drew Johns, Research, Analysis, and Statistics, Internal Revenue Service

Discussant:

Eric Toder, Urban Institute

DAY TWO: Thursday, June 14**8:30-10:00 Compliance and Administrative Burdens****Moderator:**

Donald Evans, Tax Exempt and Government Entities
Division, Internal Revenue Service

Papers:

- *Doing Good: The Costs of Obtaining Tax-Exempt Status in the United States*, Marsha Blumenthal, University of St. Thomas, and Laura Kalambokidis, University of Minnesota
- *Aggregate Estimates of Small Business Taxpayer Compliance Burden*, John Guyton and Wu-Lang Lee, Research, Analysis, and Statistics, Internal Revenue Service; Donald DeLuca and Scott Stilmar, IBM Business Consulting; and John O'Hare, Quantria Strategies, LLC
- *Tax Complexity and its Impact on Tax Compliance and Tax Administration*, Margaret McKerchar, Australian School of Taxation

Discussant:

Jane Gravelle, Congressional Research Service

10:00-10:20 **BREAK**

10:20-11:50 **Taxpayer Service—Preferences and Effects**

Moderator:

Joel Friedman, Wage and Investment Division, Internal Revenue Service

Papers:

- *I'm from the IRS and I'm Here to Help You: Taxpayer Services and Tax Compliance*, James Alm, Georgia State University, Michael Jones, Bridgewater State College, and Michael McKee, University of Calgary
- *Taxpayer Preferences for Service and Filing*, Ben Shackleford, Wage and Investment Division, Internal Revenue Service
- *Lab Research on Customer Preferences*, Kathleen Holland and Howard Rasey, Wage and Investment Division, Internal Revenue Service

Discussant:

Roman Meyerovich, Canada Revenue Agency

11:50-12:00 **Closing Remarks**

Janice Hedemann, Research, Analysis, and Statistics, Internal Revenue Service