



Kathy Pickering
Executive Director, The Tax Institute at H&R Block
Vice President, Government Relations

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Kathy Pickering is the executive director of The Tax Institute at H&R Block, the go-to source for objective insights on federal and state tax laws affecting the individual. With more than a decade of experience in tax operations and 25 years in information technology, Pickering is responsible for the strategic direction and management for a team of the nation's top experts on tax issues.

As head of The Tax Institute, Pickering oversees enrolled agents, CPAs and attorneys who provide information and analysis on the real-world implications of tax policy and tax proposals. The experts at The Tax Institute draw on years of experience and access to H&R Block's extensive national network of industry experts and data. Pickering speaks about taxes and tax policy issues to policymakers, journalists, tax policy experts and tax preparers. She has been quoted in *The Associated Press*, *Bloomberg*, *Reuters*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, *National Journal*, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *Investor's Business Daily*, and *SavvySugar.com*. Pickering has appeared on FOX Business News and New York 1 News, and has participated as an expert in many tax related forums.

Pickering also serves as H&R Block's vice president of government relations. In this role, she leads the strategy and oversight of the government relations activities for the company and its interests on Capitol Hill and in state capitals nationwide. She also leads H&R Block's relationships with the Internal Revenue Service.

Past Experience

Kathy Pickering led the design of the client experience at H&R Block's retail office. She also led the design of H&R Block's tax software and the implementation of key tax law changes, such as EITC due diligence, for H&R Block's retail tax products business unit and has deep knowledge of the tax filing process and systems. Previously, Pickering served as vice president in H&R Block's information technology department where she led the systems development departments responsible for Tax Cut Software, Tax Preparation systems used in retail offices, the e-filing systems and corporate applications financial and accounting systems. Prior to joining H&R Block, Pickering worked with Sprint PCS, Olsten Health Services and various consulting firms where she focused on implementing accounting and financial systems, and leading Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software implementations, such as JD Edwards and PeopleSoft software.

Areas of Expertise

General tax issues that affect the individual, tax preparation and electronic filing systems.

Speaking Engagements:

- Industry engagements on topics including ERP implementation, IT, electronic filing and client experience design
- Guest speaker at the Kansas City, Mo. Chamber of Commerce on the tax implications of health care reform
- Guest speaker at the Council for Electronic Revenue Communication Advancement (CERCA) on the tax implications of health care reform

Education and Awards

B.A., The Catholic University of America (CUA), Washington, D.C.

Graduate courses in Accounting

Extensive IT credentials – Advanced technology

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