

Department
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Internal
Revenue
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Office of
Chief Counsel

N o t i c e

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N(30)000-318
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March 18, 1999

Counsel to the National Taxpayer
Subject: Advocate -- Status Report **Cancellation Date:** September 14, 1999

Stuart L. Brown, the Chief Counsel, has signed a memorandum providing information on legal services to the National Taxpayer Advocate.

The text of the memorandum follows:

This memorandum provides a status report on our new approach for providing legal services to the National Taxpayer Advocate.

Last November, we began testing the concept of having a small group of Counsel attorneys dedicated full-time to the needs of the National Taxpayer Advocate. Since then, Ken Little, Deputy Regional Counsel (Northeast) has served on detail as "Counsel to the National Taxpayer Advocate." During this period, Ken has been assisted on a full-time basis by several other attorneys on detail from their regular assignments -- Santina Jannotta, Jane Wilson, Margie Tinagero and John Freeman.

Ken and the others have done an outstanding job in proving the value of this concept during the pilot phase. The experience of the past four months has shown that this approach can both provide the National Taxpayer Advocate with high quality legal services and also build a strong working partnership between the Advocate and his legal advisors. Accordingly, we have decided this arrangement should be continued as part of the new organizational design for both the National Taxpayer Advocate and the Office of Chief Counsel.

Beginning this week, Ms. Kirsten Wielobob has accepted a detail to lead the next phase of this effort. Kirsten has served as Assistant to the Commissioner since 1997; before that she was an associate at the law firm of Baker & McKenzie in Washington, D.C. We will also be recruiting 2-4 additional attorneys to staff this office as Tina, Jane, Margie and John finish their details.

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