

Subject: Personnel Announcement **Cancel Date:** After Reading

This notice announces three Senior Executive Service appointments that were confirmed by the Office of Personnel Management earlier this year. We apologize for the inadvertent delay in distributing notice of these appointments.

- (1) Christopher B. Sterner : Area Counsel (Area 7)
(Small Business and Self-Employed)

Mr. Sterner started his career with the Office of Chief Counsel in 1977 as a Law Clerk in the (then) Northeast Regional Office. In 1978, he was reassigned to the Albany District Counsel Office, where his strong technical skills led to his promotion to a GS-15 Special Litigation Assistant in 1988. He remained in the Albany office until its closure in 1996, serving as the Acting District Counsel during the office's final months. He was subsequently reassigned to the Richmond office as the Assistant District Counsel, until his selection in 2000 to the Area Counsel position. Mr. Sterner's academic credentials include a B.A. in Political Science from CUNY, Richmond College in 1974, and a J.D. from SUNY at Buffalo Law School in 1977. He is a member of the New York State bar.

- (2) James L. Atkinson: Deputy Associate Chief Counsel
(Income Tax & Accounting)

Upon his graduation from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1990, Mr. Atkinson began his legal career with the Dallas, Texas law firm of Johnson and Gibbs. In December 1991, Mr. Atkinson joined the Income Tax & Accounting Division as an attorney-advisor. He advanced to become an Assistant to the Branch Chief and then a Special Assistant to the Assistant Chief Counsel (IT&A). Subsequently, he was promoted to the position of Technical Adviser to the Associate Chief Counsel (Domestic), and also served as an Assistant to the Commissioner under Acting Commissioner Michael Dolan. Following a brief stint with Baker and Botts in

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Dallas, Mr. Atkinson accepted an offer to return to the Office of Chief Counsel as Counsel to the Associate Chief Counsel (IT&A) in 1999.

(3) William J. O'Shea: Deputy Associate Chief Counsel
(Passthroughs & Special Industries)

Mr. O'Shea began his career with the Office of Chief Counsel in 1978, after receiving his J.D. from Boston College of Law that same year. From 1978 to 1988, Mr. O'Shea served in the Interpretative Division in the (then) Office of the Associate Chief Counsel (Technical). He became an Assistant Branch Chief in that office in 1981, and then a Branch Chief in 1985. In 1988, he was selected for reassignment to a Branch Chief position in Passthroughs and Special Industries, a position in which he remained until his promotion to the Deputy Associate Chief Counsel position. Mr. O'Shea served as a full time member of the Commissioner's redesign team for several months during the Office's recent restructuring activities.

I know you will join me in extending belated congratulations and continuing success to Mr. Sterner, Mr. Atkinson and Mr. O'Shea in their executive careers.

 /s/
Richard Skillman
Acting Chief Counsel