



YOUR VOICE AT THE IRS



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Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate (NTA), is the voice of the taxpayer within the IRS and before Congress. She leads the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), an independent organization inside the IRS that helps taxpayers resolve problems and works for systemic change to mitigate problems experienced by groups of taxpayers.

Throughout her career, Ms. Olson has advocated for the rights of taxpayers and for greater fairness and less complexity in the tax system. In calling for fundamental reform in 2012, she wrote, "A simpler, more transparent tax code will substantially reduce the estimated 6.1 billion hours and \$168 billion that taxpayers spend on return preparation" and "reduce the likelihood that sophisticated taxpayers can exploit arcane provisions to avoid paying their fair share of tax."

Ms. Olson was appointed to the position of National Taxpayer Advocate in January 2001. Under her leadership, the [NTA's Annual Report to Congress](#) has become an important vehicle for change. It is one of two reports the NTA is required by statute to deliver each year, and outlines the most serious problems facing taxpayers. The IRS has implemented hundreds of recommendations she has made for administrative change. Members of Congress have introduced bills to implement dozens of her recommendations for legislative change, and 15 of them have been enacted into law. In June 2014, the IRS adopted the [Taxpayer Bill of Rights](#) for which Ms. Olson had long advocated, grouping dozens of existing rights in the Internal Revenue Code into ten broad categories of rights, thereby making them clear, understandable, and accessible for taxpayers and IRS employees alike.

Tax Analysts recently honored Nina Olson as one of ten Outstanding Women in Tax for 2016. This recognition reflects Nina Olson's influence on the work of legislators, tax administrators and tax professionals across the globe. She gave the 2013 Woodworth Lecture, sponsored by Pettit College of Law at Ohio Northern University. Ms. Olson is a member of the American College of Tax Counsel and delivered the group's prestigious Griswold Lecture in January 2010. The non-profit Tax Foundation selected her to receive its Public Sector Distinguished Service Award in 2007. Money magazine named her one of 12 "Class Acts of 2004," and Accounting Today magazine has named her one of its Top 100 Most Influential People in the accounting profession each year since 2004.

Prior to her appointment as the NTA, Ms. Olson founded and served as Executive Director of The Community Tax Law Project, the first independent § 501(c)(3) low income taxpayer

clinic in the United States. From 1975 until 1991, she owned a tax planning and preparation firm in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

An attorney licensed in Virginia and North Carolina, Ms. Olson served as the chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Taxation's Low Income Taxpayers Committee as well as the Pro Se/Pro Bono Task Force of the ABA Section of Taxation's Court Procedure Committee. She is the 1999 recipient of both the Virginia Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award and the City of Richmond Bar Association's Pro Bono Award. Ms. Olson graduated from Bryn Mawr College, cum laude, with an A.B. in Fine Arts. She received her J.D., cum laude, from North Carolina Central School of Law and her Master of Laws in Taxation, with distinction, from Georgetown University Law Center. Ms. Olson has served as an adjunct professor at several law schools.

[Read the National Taxpayer Advocate's congressional testimony.](#)

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