

**December 7, 2023**  
**Alaska Practitioner Liaison Meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting (MS Teams)**  
**11:00 AM-1:00 PM**

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**Attendees:**

Internal Revenue Service

- Clinton Wight – Criminal Investigation
- Patrick Matthew – Criminal Investigation
- John Little – Taxpayer Advocate Service
- John Blakeman – Stakeholder Liaison
- Michael Smith – Stakeholder Liaison
- Kristen Hoiby – Stakeholder Liaison

Practitioner Representatives

- Ami Oppe, ASCPA
  - Sherry Whah, EA National Association of Tax Professionals, NATP
  - Ryan Beason, ASCPA
  - John Brewer, ASCPA
  - Lisa Rogers, ASCPA
  - Aaron DeBruhl, ASCPA
  - Ivalea Packee,
  - Christina Passard, ABA
  - Charles Schuetze, Alaska Bar Association, ABA
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**Meeting Summary**

Ami, Michael and John opened the meeting with introductions.

**Clinton Wight and Patrick Matthew – Criminal Investigation**

IRS Criminal Investigation (CI) serves the American public by investigating potential criminal violations of the Internal Revenue Code and related financial crimes in a manner that fosters confidence in the tax system and compliance with the law.

It is no secret that the IRS is hiring, and so is Criminal Investigation. CI is a good place to work, but before we get into that, it is good to remember that the IRS isn't just about compliance and enforcement positions. There are positions in economics, statistics, management and even customer service...just to name a few. The IRS also offers a measure of employment stability and excellent benefits. The IRS is an equal opportunity employer, and has one of the most diverse workforces in the country.

Here are the basic requirements to enter at grade 7:

- You must be under 37 at the point of selection (tentative job offer)
- You must have one year of specialized experience, **or**
- One full year of graduate level education which included or was supplemented by at least 15 semester/23 quarter hours in accounting plus an additional 9 semester/14 quarter hours from among the following fields: business law, economics, finance, tax law or money and banking, **or**
- A bachelor's degree with superior academic achievement.

With few exceptions, the age requirement is a must. There is a mandatory retirement at age 57, and the requirement is pretty much the same across the Federal 'Enforcement' divisions. For the education/experience requirement, a Special Agent applicant can qualify on education alone, experience alone or a combination of the two.

Applicants can go to [USAJOBS - The Federal Government's official employment site](#) to submit their resume and apply for any number of IRS jobs.

If you are interested in a career, or as would be the case with this meeting...if you know someone who might be interested, call or email Clinton: 907-921-6840, [Clinton.wight@ci.irs.gov](mailto:Clinton.wight@ci.irs.gov).

Also, and this should not be forgotten...if you know of any tax related shenanigans or ne'er-do-well tax promoter types out there, please call with that information too!

### **John Little, Taxpayer Advocate Service [TAS]**

John has been at the IRS for well over 20 years, and has worked in many positions. He has been the LTA for Alaska since July of this year.

John commented that TAS works with many tax preparers as well as individual taxpayers. Many folks are uncomfortable contacting IRS...or IRS-like folks such as TAS... but for whatever reason, tax pros are often the first line of 'discovery' that something is amiss and needs attention. TAS can help with just about any tax situation that one can imagine...except for processing of an original return. If you want to submit the Form 911 by fax to our local office, the number is 855-819-5022. There is a local intake line for Alaska [voice], but right now there is no 'Intake Advocate' to take care of the phone line. Messages are checked periodically, but it's best right now to call the National Intake Line at: 877-777-4778.

And just a tip regarding the National Intake Line... we know that taxes and communicating with IRS can be challenging at times. So, if you're stumped on something...can't figure out which way to go, and PPS is unreachable for the moment, and your SL has finally gone off the deep end [just kidding], you might consider calling the 877 number above. TAS may not take your case, but the assistants are trained on how to handle a variety of situations, and they may be able to, if not answer your question, at least point you in the right direction toward a solution.

Finally, John hit home the importance of sending in ERROR FREE RETURNS. Right now there's about 953,000 paper 1040 Returns waiting to be processed...about twice the normal volume. There's also 770,000 amended 1040X waiting to be processed. PLEASE REMEMBER that anything where we have to send a letter to the taxpayer adds time to the processing of the return...about 6 months or so. Please, please, please check those returns before filing to make sure they are error free.

## **John Blakeman, Stakeholder Liaison**

### IPPINs:

It's that time of year when we need to get our ducks in a row for filing season. Protecting our personal tax information is very important, and one of the tools for helping with that is the IPPIN or Identity Protection Personal Identification Number. Of course, much like copies of W-2s and 1099s...people lose things like this sometimes. The easiest way to retrieve the IPPIN is if the client has an [Online Account](#) , but if not, you can call the help line at 800-908-4490.

More information on IPPINs, including how to sign up for one, and the link for retrieving lost IPPINs can be found here: [Get An Identity Protection PIN | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

### Employee Retention Credit Claims Withdrawal:

We want you to know that we share your concern that honest taxpayers have been duped by promoters into filing false claims. We have been working on solutions to help. The new withdrawal option allows employers with pending claims to avoid future repayment of a refunded credit with penalties and interest, so we encourage them to closely review the withdrawal option and the requirements, which we're overviewing today. We continue to urge taxpayers to consult with a trusted tax professional rather than a marketing company about this complex tax credit. Since the moratorium on processing new claims was issued in mid-September of this year we've also been hearing reports that these companies are getting more aggressive in their marketing, even urging businesses to sign up for costly 'anticipation loans' ... But you folks are smarter than that for sure!

The process of withdrawing the claim depends on the taxpayer's particular situation, and we are still waiting on guidance for those who wish to repay the credit, but have already received and cashed the check. It's a bit involved for this meeting right now to go into all the situations, but THERE IS A PAGE ON IRS.GOV that explains the special withdrawal process.

We just got a news release yesterday stating 20,000 disallowance letters are starting to be sent and it seems we'll be getting another special message to share next week on ERC... I'll wager it's the procedures for the folks who want to repay ERC, because they know their claim isn't good, but have received and cashed the check. Here is

the web page with ALL THE GOOD STUFF you need to know: [Employee Retention Credit | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

1099-K Thresholds for 2023:

Well, the news is out folks, and it looks like 2023 is going to be another 'transition' year for the new \$600 threshold for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Payment Processors and the like. Please see IR-2023-221 for details and a link to the notice: [IRS announces delay in Form 1099-K reporting threshold for third party platform payments in 2023; plans for a threshold of \\$5,000 for 2024 to phase in implementation | Internal Revenue Service](#)

As the IRS continues to work to implement the new law, the agency will treat 2023 as an additional transition year. This will reduce the potential confusion caused by the distribution of an estimated 44 million Forms 1099-K sent to many taxpayers who wouldn't expect one and may not have a tax obligation. As a result, reporting will not be required unless the taxpayer receives over \$20,000 and has more than 200 transactions in 2023.

Given the complexity of the new provision, the large number of individual taxpayers affected and the need for stakeholders to have certainty with enough lead time, the IRS is planning for a threshold of \$5,000 for tax year 2024 as part of a phase-in to implement the \$600 reporting threshold enacted under the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Issue Management Resolution System [IMRS]:

Issue Management Resolution System is a vehicle and a process by which we take issues and feedback and elevate them to the program owners who may be able to correct any problems that may be occurring. It is a formal process, whereby we enter your issues, often first on the discussion board, then, if it seems it is indeed a systemic issue, rather than just an isolated incident, it can be elevated to the Local Issues Database. Sometimes, often because of a new statute or program IRS is managing, we have a lot of issues/feedback on that new program. For these types of things we have what are called 'Collector Issues'. The Collector Issues are kind of for issues for the big programs or projects that IRS is doing, and we are actively seeking feedback on how it's working.

The LID is the thing... discussion board is just that...it's really a chat application where we can put forth potential issues and get feedback from our fellow SLs as to whether they are hearing the same issue in their neck of the woods. If it seems that we've got a systemic issue, it can then be entered into the LID. Issues to be resolved are basically taken from the LID or the Collector Issues.

For example, we currently have collector issues on IRIS, American Rescue Plan Act [think 1099-K], Resumption of Collection Notices [pretty new]

So that being said, what are some issues that you've been itching to talk on? You can put them in the chat or raise your hand...but that's really a lot of what IRS is running on right now...your feedback on how IRS should be spending the Inflation Reduction Act funds that are coming our way. What do you want the IRS of the future to look like?

### **Questions and answers and feedback:**

John Little brought up a very interesting issue with Form 8814. The issue primarily affects Alaska families with more than 3 children, but it could affect others with more than 3 children as well. The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, paid out to all residents of Alaska each year, including children, means that parents must file forms 8814 for their kids each year. An 8814 must be filed for each child, but IRS systems only accept the first 3 8814s and the rest just drop off. This means that calls must be made, things need to be re-filed...and that's a burden. Wouldn't it be nice if IRS systems would accept all the 8814s the first time they are sent?

A: We will certainly elevate this issue. For now, we recommend responding to any CP12 notice using the directions on the notice... with the additional 8814s and a note indicating the IRS system limitations and would the IRS please recalculate the tax.

Q: We've been noticing that payments mailed on the deadline date are not being honored as paid on time. Seems IRS has kind of dropped using the 'mailbox rule'.

A: We have not heard this one yet...or shall we say, recently. We will check into this.

Q: Here's a thought...while we have not made a practice of filing Form 4810 or Form 5495, we were wondering if filing either of these forms would speed up processing?

A: That...is an interesting question. At first blush, it does not seem that filing another form would speed things up. We shall ask around to see if that would work.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next meeting will most likely be in late May or June some time 😊