

NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE PUBLIC FORUMS

CONVENED BY NINA E. OLSON, NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE AND
THE HONORABLE XAVIER BECERRA, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 34TH DISTRICT, CA
BOYLE HEIGHTS CITY HALL
2130 EAST 1ST STREET | LOS ANGELES, CA
MONDAY, AUGUST 22 | 9:30 - 11:00 AM



Nina E. Olson

Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate, is the voice of the taxpayer at the IRS and before Congress. Under her leadership, the Taxpayer Advocate Service helps hundreds of thousands of people every year resolve problems with the IRS and addresses systemic issues within the IRS. Her Annual Report to Congress identifies the most serious problems facing taxpayers and recommends solutions. In 2014, the IRS adopted the Taxpayer Bill of Rights for which Ms. Olson had long advocated, placing dozens of existing rights in the Internal Revenue Code into ten fundamental rights, and making them clear, understandable, and accessible for taxpayers and IRS employees alike. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and North Carolina Central School of Law, and she holds a Master of Laws degree in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center.



Rep. Xavier Becerra

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, Representative Xavier Becerra serves as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, is a member of the powerful Committee on Ways And Means and is Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security.

As Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Rep. Becerra wields a strong voice in House Democratic leadership, helping to set priorities and drive the legislative decision making process.

The first Latino to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Becerra has used his position to increase opportunities for working families, to improve the Social Security program for women and minorities, to combat poverty among the working poor, and to strengthen Medicare and to ensure its long-term viability. In 2010, Rep. Becerra served on the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

Prior to his election to Congress, Rep. Becerra served one term in the California Legislature as the representative of the 59th Assembly District in Los Angeles County. He is a former Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice.

Rep. Becerra is the son of working-class parents and was the first in his family to graduate with a four-year degree. In 1980, Rep. Becerra earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Stanford University. He was awarded his Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School in 1984. Rep. Becerra is married to Dr. Carolina Reyes. They are the proud parents of three daughters: Clarisa, Olivia and Natalia.



Audrey Casillas

Audrey Casillas has launched, implemented, and managed the growth of Koreatown Youth and Community Center's successful Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which includes over 300 volunteers with close to 40,000 tax returns prepared at multiple sites since 2007.

In addition to overseeing the operations of 6 tax centers, Ms. Casillas provides yearlong technical assistance to tax site managers, staff, and hundreds of volunteers from over 20 VITA sites throughout Los Angeles County as the lead of the Los Angeles Tax Collaborative. Under Ms. Casillas's tenure, KYCC's VITA program earned acknowledgements from the Internal Revenue Service and United Way of Greater Los Angeles for Highest Quality Services, Highest Accuracy, and Best VITA Site Model.

Ms. Casillas holds a Bachelors of Science in Community & Regional Development from the University of California, Davis. She enjoys hiking and donating her time as a website designer.



Isai Cortez

Professor Cortez, is an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University School of Law, Supervising Attorney at the Pepperdine Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (PLITC), and a lead attorney at boutique tax firm Bismark Tax, Inc. The focus of Attorney Isai Bismark Cortez, Esq. is in the tax controversy area, primarily representing clients before the Internal Revenue Service in many different tax controversy areas.

In the tax controversy area Attorney Cortez, Esq. has handled cases in the state and federal level which include collections in various levels, employment tax, examinations in various areas, appeals in various levels, cases referred to the Taxpayer Advocate, offshore cases and tax court cases. Attorney Cortez, Esq. now also serving as an adjunct Pepperdine University School of Law and at the PLITC is helping low income taxpayers with his years of tax controversy experience. As a Spanish speaking attorney, Attorney Cortez, Esq. is focusing his role at the PLITC on reaching the Spanish speaking demographic of low income taxpayers. He has first hand knowledge of the struggle Spanish speaking taxpayers have when dealing with any government agency, specifically the Internal Revenue Service.



Robert S. Horwitz

Robert Horwitz started his legal career with the Department of Justice Tax Division and has over 35 years of experience representing clients in civil and criminal tax cases, including civil audits and appeals, criminal investigations, administrative hearings and in civil and criminal trials and appeals in federal and state courts. A partner with Hochman, Salkin, Rettig, Toscher & Perez, P.C., in Beverly Hills, California, he is the current chair of the Taxation Section of the State Bar of California. He can be reached at horwitz@taxlitigator.com.



Susan Maples

Susan Maples is the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate for the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and is responsible to ensure taxpayers' rights are protected. As the Advocate her responsibilities include the coordination and resolution of taxpayer complaints and problems; and education and outreach efforts to taxpayers and tax practitioners.

She has been with the FTB for 20+ years working in both Sacramento and the Southern California field offices. She started as an auditor and has experience with personal income tax and corporate tax law.

Susan has worked closely with the practitioner community in her previous role as the Tax Practitioner Liaison to FTB and presented a variety of topics with the Education and Outreach program. She also worked as a Public Affairs spokesperson.

Susan earned her Certified Public Accountant license while with the FTB.



Nancy Remo

Nancy Remo has been a tax preparer since moving to Los Angeles in 2004 and has been an enrolled agent since 2011. She holds a degree in Accounting from University of California Los Angeles and a Master's Degree from University of St La Salle. She is a member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents and the California Society of Enrolled Agents. Nancy is also a fellow of the National Tax Practice Institute (NTPI).

While her specialties are in tax preparation for both individual and business entities, she also has experience with employment, corporation, partnership, estates, gifts and trust taxation.