

# NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE PUBLIC FORUMS

CONVENED BY NINA E. OLSON, NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE AND  
THE HONORABLE JOSÉ E. SERRANO, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, NEW YORK 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
ROOM C391 | C BUILDING/EAST ACADEMIC COMPLEX | HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE | BRONX, NY  
MARCH 18, 2016 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM



## 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.



## José E. Serrano

U.S. Representative José E. Serrano represents the Fifteenth Congressional District of New York in the Bronx. He is the only Congressman from New York City on the exclusive House Appropriations Committee and serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government. This prestigious post as top Democrat on the Subcommittee allows Congressman Serrano to help oversee the budgets of multiple agencies, including the Treasury Department including the IRS; the FDIC; the District of Columbia; the Judicial branch, and other agencies. Congressman Serrano is also Senior Whip for the Minority Whip operation, a position through which he helps develop strategies to marshal support for party positions and legislation. He is an active member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and served as Chair of the Caucus from 1993-94. He is now the most senior Member of Congress of Puerto Rican descent.

## James Hurst

James Hurst is an attorney and Legal Ombudsman at the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). DCA created the Legal Ombudsman position in 2014 to increase transparency and fairness and to educate businesses. As Legal Ombudsman, he provides industry-specific compliance training throughout New York City and answers inquiries from businesses on how to comply with the licensing, consumer protection, and other regulations enforced by DCA. Prior to 2014, he worked as a Staff Attorney within the agency's Legal Division. One of his primary responsibilities was representing DCA in its enforcement of New York City's Income Tax Preparer laws and rules. He has trained inspectors, helped direct the agency's enforcement efforts, and represented the Department before its adjudication tribunal. He studied law and public policy at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco and the Goldman School of Public Policy in Berkeley, California. He has worked with a variety of government offices and legal service non-profits in both London and the San Francisco Bay Area.



## Erik Schryver

Erik Schryver is a Senior Staff Attorney at the Bronx office of Legal Services NYC and is the Qualifying Tax Expert at the Bronx Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC). Erik is assigned to the Economic Justice unit where, in addition to his work with the LITC, he practices in the areas of elder, consumer, and employment law. He also has extensive experience in landlord-tenant, Social Security disability, and Medicaid practice. During his years at Legal Services NYC-Bronx, he has regularly visited senior and mobility-impaired clients at senior centers, hospitals, institutions and their homes all over the Bronx.



## **German Tejada**

Mr. Tejada has over 30 years of experience working in the social service field. His first years with the Legal Aid Society assisting families fight for denied benefits and eviction prevention grants. The last 23 years with the Food Bank For New York City at first administering its homeless prevention and public benefits program and the last 13 years leading its VITA free tax program. He has been responsible for the set-up and implementation of Food Bank's Free Tax Assistance and Financial Empowerment Services programs, which under his leadership has grown to file over 80,000 returns annually. Last year assisting filers obtain over \$141 million in refunds. The Food Bank's VITA program operates 20 Full VITA sites citywide and in the past 4 years Mr. Tejada and his team have developed an innovative method of providing free tax services, Virtual VITA filing platform which has over 80 intake locations throughout the city assisting filers submit over 5000 returns. He is also responsible for benefit integration of SNAP and Health insurance enrollment at Food Bank VITA sites. Mr. Tejada is a Dominican immigrant and lifelong Bronx resident.

## **Elliot Quinones**

Mr. Quinones has over 45 years of experience working in the accounting field. His first years served as a Controller for Tremont Community Corp. He served a Budget Officer for the Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx and became the Assistant Controller – Internal Audit for the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center. In 1989, he became founded Elliot Quinones and Associates and has worked as tax practitioner for the last 27 years. His business serves both individuals and corporations. Mr. Quinones has an Advanced Certificate in Taxation and a Bachelors in Professional Studies Accounting and Taxation from Pace University, New York City.