American Bar Association
Section of Taxation
http://www.americanbar.org/tax

Release: Immediate
Contact: Janet In
Phone: 202-662-8677
Email: Janet.In@americanbar.org

American Bar Association Section of Taxation announces two Public Service Fellows

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 20, 2015 — The American Bar Association Section of Taxation has named its 2015-2017 Christine A. Brunswick Public Service Fellows. The Fellows will be providing services to low-income taxpayers through sponsoring non-profit organizations for two years.

The 2015 Christine A. Brunswick Public Service Fellows are:

- Daniel Knudsen, scheduled to graduate from the University of Montana Law School in May, will be working with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, in Oklahoma City.

- Frank DiPietro, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, will be working for the University of Minnesota Law School’s Ronald M. Mankoff Tax Clinic and the Center for New Americans, as well as providing support for Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Daniel will provide tax advocacy and representation to Native American tribal governments and individual tribal taxpayers.

“OILS is excited to have Mr. Knudsen joining the tax clinic team at OILS. The advocacy that we do has tremendous impact on our clients’ lives, and having a Christine A. Brunswick Public Service Fellow in our office is a wonderful validation of our efforts. With thirty-nine tribes in Oklahoma, Dan's project will be a crucial part in increasing access to services to many more tribal members, especially those in remote areas” said Mark Widell, the Managing Attorney of the OILS Tax Clinic.

“The OILS tax program is one of the most high-volume Low Income Tax Clinics in the nation, and Dan’s talents and interests will really help our clients,” said Colline Keely, the Executive Director of OILS. “The need for dedicated young attorneys in tax advocacy, particularly for low income tax payers in hard to access populations, is tremendous, and we feel blessed that the ABA and Dan are joining with us in this fellowship.”

Frank will provide legal services to immigrants seeking to become compliant with their U.S. tax obligations along their path to U.S. citizenship. Frank will also participate in legal clinics to provide tax assistance to veterans in the Minnesota area.

Professor Kathryn Sedo, who will be supervising Frank’s work, remarked, “The University of Minnesota is pleased to sponsor our recent graduate Frank DiPietro as an ABA Fellow in two of its clinics, the Ronald M. Mankoff Tax Clinic and Center for New Americans. As a result of this fellowship, the two clinical programs will create an exciting new partnership and collaboration with
other community organizations to provide legal services to their clients. The focus of the fellowship will be in education and outreach on tax issues specifically impacting the immigrant population in MN. Furthermore, Mr. DiPietro will be assisting these taxpayers in achieving tax compliance so they may obtain citizenship. Mr. DiPietro will also work with the clinics existing and new community partners, such as Mid-Minnesota Legal Services (immigrant tax issues) and the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (veterans’ tax issues) to increase the capacity of these organizations to resolve the tax issues of the low-income immigrants and veterans living in our community.”

§

The Public Service Fellowship program was developed in 2008 to address the need for tax legal assistance and to foster an interest in tax-related public service. In 2013, the fellowship was re-named the Christine A. Brunswick Public Service Fellowship in honor of the late Christine Brunswick, the Section’s former Executive Director for over 20 years. Christine was a strong proponent of advancing public service efforts in tax law and fostering a fair and equitable tax system. Under her leadership, the Tax Section devoted significant resources to further that goal.

The fellowships provide funding for the fellows’ salaries and benefits, as well as law school debt assistance, by means of charitable contributions to the sponsoring organizations. All applications were reviewed, and the successful applicants selected, by the Section’s Public Service Fellowship Committee. The Section plans to award as many as two fellowships each year.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the largest professional association of tax lawyers, with approximately 23,000 members nationwide. Its goals include helping taxpayers better understand their rights and obligations under the tax laws and working to achieve a simplified tax system that is equitable and efficient.

With nearly 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is one of the largest voluntary professional membership organizations in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law. To review our privacy statement, click here. Follow the latest ABA news at www.abanow.org and on Twitter @ABANews.