

News Briefs

2009 Public Service Fellows

The Section of Taxation is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2009-2011 Public Service Fellowships.

- **Katie Tolliver**, scheduled to earn her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in May 2010. After graduating, Katie will direct the Appalachian Community Partnership for Tax Advocacy, serving low-income taxpayers in Tennessee, as well as regions of Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina.
- **Douglas Smith**, currently a lawyer in private practice in central Pennsylvania. Doug will be working with the Community Action Program (CAP) of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he will develop a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) to serve the population in southeast and central Pennsylvania.

The Section's Public Service Fellowships were developed in 2008 to address the need for tax legal assistance, and to foster an interest in tax-related public service among those individuals who participate. The 2008-2010 fellowships were awarded to Laura Newland and Vijay Raghavan, who are now working at 501(c)(3) organizations that assist low income taxpayers outside Chicago and Washington, DC. The Fellowships provide funding for salaries and benefits, as well as law school debt assistance, by means of charitable contributions to the sponsoring organizations. For more information about the ABA Tax Section Public Service Fellowships, please go to www.abanet.org/tax/awards/publicservice.

2009 Law Student Tax Challenge

The 2009 Law Student Tax Challenge is now open! An alternative to traditional moot court competitions, the Law Student Tax Challenge asks two-person teams of students to solve a cutting-edge and complex business problem that might arise in everyday tax practice. This year's problem asks J.D. and LL.M. students to consider challenging scenarios involving timely issues in individual and business entity tax.

Teams are initially evaluated on two criteria: a memorandum to a senior partner and a letter to the client explaining the result. Based on this written work product, six teams from the J.D. Division and four teams from the LL.M. Division will receive a free trip (including airfare and accommodations for two nights) for the Section's 2010 Midyear Meeting, January 21-23, at the Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, TX, where they will defend their submissions before a panel of some of the country's top tax lawyers.

The competition is a great way for law students to showcase their knowledge in a real-world setting and gain valuable exposure to the tax law community. To view slideshows of students and judges in action at last year's challenge, and to learn more about this year's challenge, please visit the LSTC website at <http://www.abanet.org/tax/lstc>.

Careers in Tax Law: Coming to a School Near You!

The Section of Taxation regularly co-hosts free "Careers in Tax Law" panels with law schools around the country to introduce J.D. and LL.M. students to career opportunities in the tax law arena. The career panels typically include three to four lawyers representing private practice, the government, academia, and one of the big four accounting firms. A 10-15 minute Q&A session concludes the panel, and participants then break for

a networking reception, including light refreshments and drinks.

The following panels are scheduled this fall:

- *Georgetown Law* – Thursday, October 29, 2009
- *Philadelphia Tax Conference* – Thursday, November 19, 2009

If you would like to attend a career panel or to organize one in your area, please contact Yolanda Lee at leey@staff.abanet.org or 202.662.8680.

The Section and West LegalEd Partner on CLE Pro Bono Webcast

The Tax Section joined the *West LegalEdcenter* recently on "Helping Charities via Pro Bono: How to 'Do It' Without Harm," a live CLE webcast that was presented for free on October 26, 2009, in celebration of the ABA's Pro Bono Week. Providing pro bono assistance to charitable organizations is an important service to the community. However, these organizations operate with many constraints under federal tax law and relevant State statutes given their dedication to public benefit purposes. This program is designed to help pro bono attorneys avoid the most common mistakes identified by three leading practitioners in the field. If you missed the October 26 presentation, there is still time to listen to the program online. For more information, go to the *West LegalEdcenter* website at www.westlegaledcenter.com.

TaxTips4U

Check out the newly designed TaxTips4U.org website! This public site is designed to provide helpful, up-to-date information to consumers seeking a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities as taxpayers. Help spread the word about the site, and let us know if you would like to contribute! ■