

**Special Projects  
Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 8, 2025**

**Designated Federal Officer (DFO)**

- Cedric Jeans TAP East Chief

**Attendance**

- |                                 |                      |                   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Dr. Olurotimi "Timi" Akindele | Chicago, IL          | Member            |
| • Jason Brinkley                | Prince Frederick, MD | Member            |
| • Stacey Cloyd                  | Washington, D.C.     | Member Vice Chair |
| • Aissata Diaby                 | Harrisburg, PA       | Member (Absent)   |
| • Tiffany Grayson               | Beaufort, SC         | Member            |
| • Steven Hall                   | Long Island, NY      | Member Chair      |
| • Jihan Jude                    | Orlando, FL          | Member            |
| • Joseph Parampathu             | Irvine, CA           | Member            |
| • John Shoemaker                | INTL- Singapore      | Member            |

**Staff**

- |                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Kevin Brown       | Management Assistant              |
| • Shawn Collins     | TAP Director                      |
| • Conchata Holloway | TAP Program Analyst               |
| • Kelvin Johnson    | TAP Program Analyst               |
| • Ann Tabat         | TAP Program Analyst               |
| • Mejbeen Balsara   | Taxpayer Services Program Analyst |

**Welcome Announcements/Comments/Acknowledgements**

Cedric Jeans opened the call and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Roll Call**

Brown completed the roll call. Quorum was met.

**Members of the Public**

None

**National Office and DFO Reports**

Jeans deferred to Shawn Collins the TAP Director. Collins said there would be some small changes for fiscal year 2026. We are happy to continue through 2026 currently. We will keep on TAPing along and updating our activity reports.

Jeans recognized Public Service Recognition week and thanked the members and staff for their work. Jeans acknowledged getting a lot accomplished over the

last 20 years and encouraged everyone to keep the momentum going. Staff and committee changes will be coming with the restructuring of TAP. Any feedback is welcome from the committee members.

### **Committee News & Updates**

Hall indicated being interested in serving a fourth year if allowed. Hall thanked this group for consistently showing up, having never missed quorum since he has been on the committee. Hall will share a link showing the state of the IRS in the chat.

Hall reported that the Direct File program might be on the chopping block which is disappointing. Hopefully people push back to keep such an important program that the public benefits from. Hall said, if this is the last year for this committee, let's go out with a bang and leave a legacy.

Hall released a schedule for the newsletter articles for the remainder of the year.

June-Jude

July- Shoemaker

August- Diaby and Akindele

September- Brinkley

October- Parampathu

November- Grayson

Cloyd will email the list out to the committee.

### **TAP Committee Update**

Hall reported: IRS Responses Received.

#### **Issue 68153-Estate Gift Tax Forms and Instructions Update**

13 of 65 recommendations were adopted; two were partially adopted, one is under consideration and 49 were not adopted mostly due to legal constraints. Shoemaker motioned; Jude seconded.

**Action: Response accepted**

#### **Issue 68581-Expand VITA, TCE, and LITC Program Services for International Taxpayers**

The six recommendations were not adopted. Shoemaker wants to rebut one issue. The committee will accept five and rebut one recommendation.

Shoemaker motioned; Cloyd seconded.

**Action: Response partially accepted; one recommendation will be rebutted.**

#### **Issue 69843-Improve the experience of taxpayers who have ITINs**

The committee accepted the Attorney Advisors (AA) and Systemic Advocacy (SA) suggestion for the referral. Shoemaker motioned; Brinkley seconded.

**Action: Issue elevated to JC as amended.**

**Issue 78238-** Protecting Taxpayer Information

Language changed to be in line with the current administration.

Cloyd motioned; Parampathu seconded

**Action:** Issue elevated to JC as amended.

- **Issue 74376-**Direct File Eligibility Requirements
- **Issue 74632-**Tax Pro Account Page
- **Issue 75527-**Expand Direct File Program

Brinkley motioned; Jude seconded

**Action:** Issues moved to Parking Lot

- **Issue 66912-**Clients living and working abroad are dual status  
Still being reviewed by SA and AA

- **Issue 78407-**IRS Customer Service Inefficiencies  
Being worked

**Approval of Minutes**

April 10, 2025, minutes reviewed. Cloyd motioned; Shoemaker seconded.

**Action:** Minutes unanimously approved as submitted

**Outreach**

Cloyd reported

- TAP Newsletter (Future Newsletter Articles)

Emailed the list to the committee. Each article is due on the twenty-fifth of each month.

- Activity Report

Add your activities to [www.tapspace.org](http://www.tapspace.org).

- Outreach

Hall did outreach with the Knights of Columbus and spoke about TAP with a tax preparer. Cloyd stated that in TAP wide outreach emails, a member of the committee shared with the members prescheduled posts for social media to spread the word about TAP.

**Subcommittee -1**

Shoemaker reported

- Issue 66912-Clients living and working abroad are dual status

Advanced to stop negative impact on international taxpayers.

- Issue 69843-Improve the experience of taxpayers who have ITINs

Advanced to share there is an expiration date on them to try to reduce noise in the system.

- Issue 78407-IRS Customer Service Inefficiencies  
Still being worked

### **Subcommittee-2**

Cloyd reported

- **Issue 74376**-Direct File Eligibility Requirements

Parking Lot

- **Issue 74632**-Tax Pro Account Page

Parking Lot

- **Issue 75527**-Expand Direct File Program

Parking Lot

- **Issue 78238**-Protecting Taxpayer Information

Voted to send to JC

### **Screening Report**

Johnson reported on May 6, 2025, the team screened 107 issues, and suggested the committee consider accepting the report. Next meeting May 15, 2025.

Parampathu motioned; Shoemaker seconded.

**Action: Screening report accepted by committee**

Johnson will be retiring at the end of the month and hopes the committee continues to do a lot going forward.

### **Internal Communications Committee**

Jude reported next meeting May 15, 2025, as the April meeting was canceled.

### **Action Items**

Johnson will do the following:

- Forward Minutes to Brown
- **Issue 69843** elevated to JC
- **Issues 74376; 74632; and 75527** put in Parking Lot
- **Issue 78238** elevated to JC
- **Issue 66912** awaiting AA and SA approval
- **Issue 78407** is on [www.tapspace.org](http://www.tapspace.org) for updates
- **Issue 68153** response accepted
- **Issue 68581** accepted five, will rebut one
- Screening Report responses updated in SAMs

### **Chair Closing Comments and Roundtable**

Hall said thank you for another productive meeting, and for issues going to the JC. It's getting warmer and more outreach opportunities are coming up. Hall encouraged members to do some outreach within TAP guidelines. Collins stated that even though Johnson is leaving this committee, we have very capable staff

that will take his place. We make a difference to the IRS. Collins announced she will be retiring by the end of this month. It has been great working with everyone, and you will hear from her again.

**Closing**

Jeans congratulated Collins and Johnson on their retirements. Jeans closed the meeting at 11:45 a.m. EST.

**Next Meeting: June 12, 2025, at 11:00am EST/12:00pm CST/1:00pm  
MST/2:00pm PST/7:00am AST/6:00am HST**