



TAP Celebration of Service

A tribute to honor your
commitment and dedication

Recognizing Your Three Years of Dedicated Service to TAP





Erin Collins
National Taxpayer Advocate

Congratulations and thank you to all our graduating members!

“Over the past three years, you have generously shared your time, talents, and expertise to elevate taxpayer voices and strengthen our tax system. Your resilience, flexibility, and professionalism embody the heart of this panel, and the work you’ve accomplished will continue to shape and improve the taxpayer experience for years to come.

Each of you has contributed to solutions that make a real difference, and I am grateful that you have helped position TAP for continued success. Thank you for your service and for being true champions for taxpayers.”

To our dedicated volunteers,

On behalf of the entire organization, we wish to formally recognize and commend our members who have reached their third year of continuous service with the TAP program.

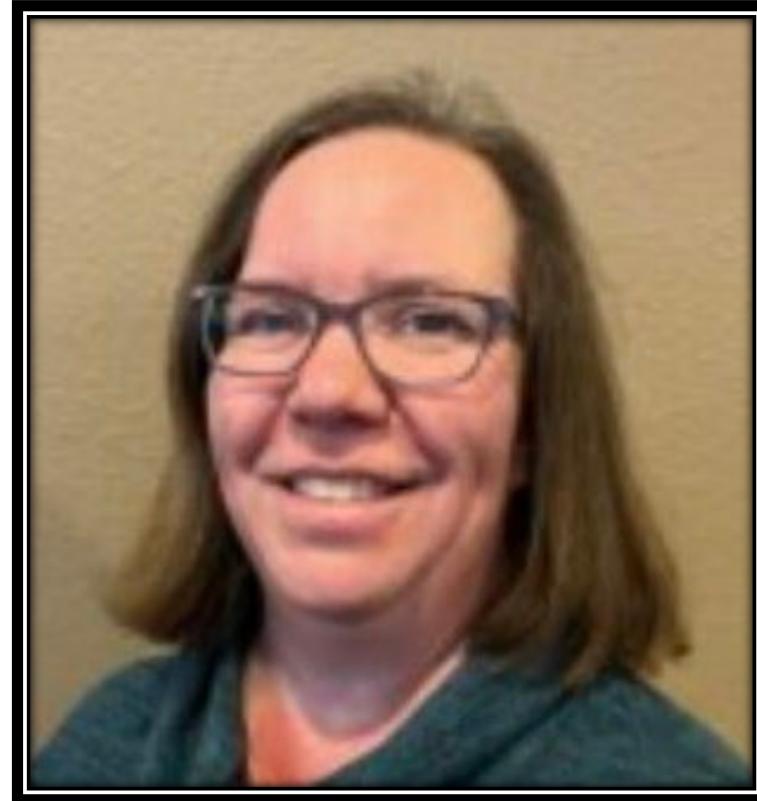
Your sustained commitment has been instrumental in the realization of TAP's core objectives. Reaching this milestone demonstrates an exceptional level of dedication, consistency, and investment in our collective mission.

We extend our sincere gratitude for your significant contributions and thank you for being part of the TAP family!



Melanie served as the Vice Chair in 2024 and Chair in 2025. She was very passionate when it comes to helping taxpayers and protecting their rights. She was also a very effective communicator and was always looking for outreach opportunities to promote TAP. She was always involved in the process of drafting recommendations and screening issues.

Thank you for your service and contributions during these three years!



Melanie Almeida

Represented: Idaho
Taxpayer Communications 2023-2025



Jason Brinkley

Represented: Maryland
Notices and Correspondence 2023
Tax Forms and Publications 2024
Special Projects 2025

During Jason's term he was a collaborative team player, routinely provided valuable, insightful feedback. He contributed across multiple areas, successfully formulating recommendations, serving on the Screening Team and the ad hoc By Laws Committee, and authoring newsletter write-ups. He shared his expertise with enthusiasm and a willingness to help others.

Thank you for your commitment and support in the TAP program, you will be missed!



Michelle Brookens
Represented: Illinois
Taxpayer Communications 2023-2025

Michelle completed her second term in TAP. In 2024 she served as the National Vice Chair, and in 2025 served as the TAP National Chair. Her leadership, commitment, and dedication made a positive impact in the lives of many taxpayers, by listening and supporting TAP members, addressing any concerns, and encouraging committee members to submit recommendations and do outreach. In addition, she always maintained an open line of communication with TAP staff and leadership.

You will be missed, and we wish you the best in your future endeavors!

Aissata Diaby

Represented: Pennsylvania
Notices and Correspondence 2023
Special Projects 2024-2025



During Aissata's time in TAP she assisted in providing insight and feedback with recommendations, authoring newsletter write-ups, and attending and participating in the in-person, full and subcommittee meetings. Her presence has helped move TAP's work forward and accomplish committee goals.

Thank you for your contributions to the program, we wish you the best!



Ellen Dickey

Represented: South Dakota
Tax Forms and Publications 2023-2025

Ellen served in various leadership roles during her term including, Chair in 2024, Vice Chair in 2025, and Subcommittee Lead. She always exhibited enthusiasm and delivered comprehensive assistance to her peers, and shared her expansive knowledge, while offering guidance and perspective. Her specialized expertise became a foundation for critical project recommendations. She also invested her time in serving on the Screening Team, attending numerous focus groups, completing quality reviews, and authoring several write-ups for the monthly newsletter and TAP Annual Report.

Your diligent efforts and loyal support are sincerely appreciated. You were a true asset to the committee and TAP program!

Manny has been a reliable go-to resource willing to take on tasks since he joined TAP. He was instrumental in making several key recommendations to the IRS, including taking a lead role in improving communication and clarity around power of attorneys and identity theft issues within notices.

Concurrently to serving on TAP, he also served as a volunteer with ETAAC. We want to give a big thanks to him for being such a reliable team player. While we anticipated that, with additional responsibilities his availability would become constrained, he remained committed to contributing to the TAP program.

Thank you for everything you have done for NCC!



Manuel “Manny” Dominguez
Represented: Missouri
Notices and Correspondence 2023-2025



Anthony “Tony” Earwood
Represented: Texas
Toll-Free Phone Lines 2023-2025

Tony served in several leadership positions during his term including Chair in 2025 and Vice Chair in 2024. He also served on the Internal Communications Committee, Outreach Committee, Screening Team, and the ad hoc Annual Report Committee.

He provided invaluable contributions to TAP internal processes and procedures, authored newsletter articles for his respective committee, and provided extensive research that resulted in high quality recommendations. Additionally, he attended and participated in numerous focus groups, provided public insight and suggestions, and created strong community partnerships with small business taxpayers by successfully collaborating with the Small Business Administration and SCORE. His efforts provided education to the public about TAP’s mission.

We will miss your calm leadership style, relentless responsiveness, and ability to work under time constraints!



Joel Gelb

Represented: New York
Tax Forms and Publications 2023-2025

During Joel's time in TAP, he provided valuable insight and feedback on recommendations and actively attended and participated in full and subcommittee meetings. His presence has helped move TAP's work forward and accomplish committee goals.

Thank you for serving on TAP!



Steven Hall

Represented: New York
Special Projects 2023-2025

Steven held various leadership roles during his term. Subcommittee Lead in his first year, Vice Chair in 2024, and Chair in 2025. He led with passion and enthusiasm while fostering a collaborative environment with his peers.

He authored numerous TAP Newsletter write-ups and led outreach efforts to effectively disseminate information about TAP and its importance. Additionally, he completed extensive research to produce and share quality recommendations on the committee's referrals.

We deeply appreciate the high standard of excellence you brought to TAP. We wish you success in your future endeavors!

During Joseph's time in TAP, he was highly engaged and a reliable participant, consistently contributing with a positive outlook and willingness to accept new tasks.

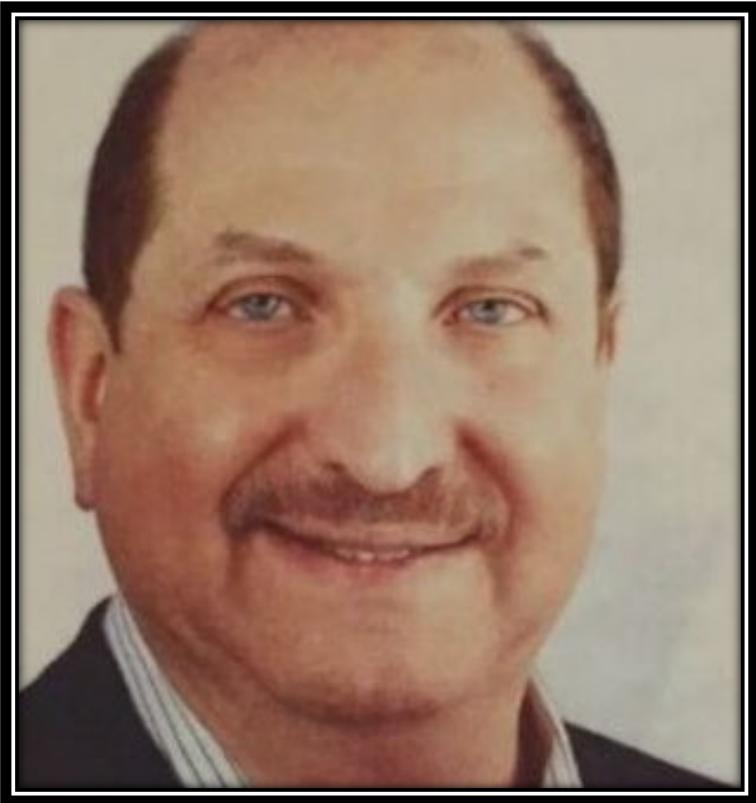
He completed several quality reviews on referrals, provided insight, formulated recommendations, and served as a part of the Screening Team. He completed numerous article write-ups for the TAP Newsletter and was part of the ad hoc Annual Report Committee. He attended numerous focus groups and stepped up to cover lead positions during scheduling conflicts.

Thank you for your dedication, you'll be deeply missed!



Joseph Parampathu

Represented: California
Taxpayer Assistance Centers 2023
Tax Forms & Publications 2024
Special Projects 2025



Steven Sklar

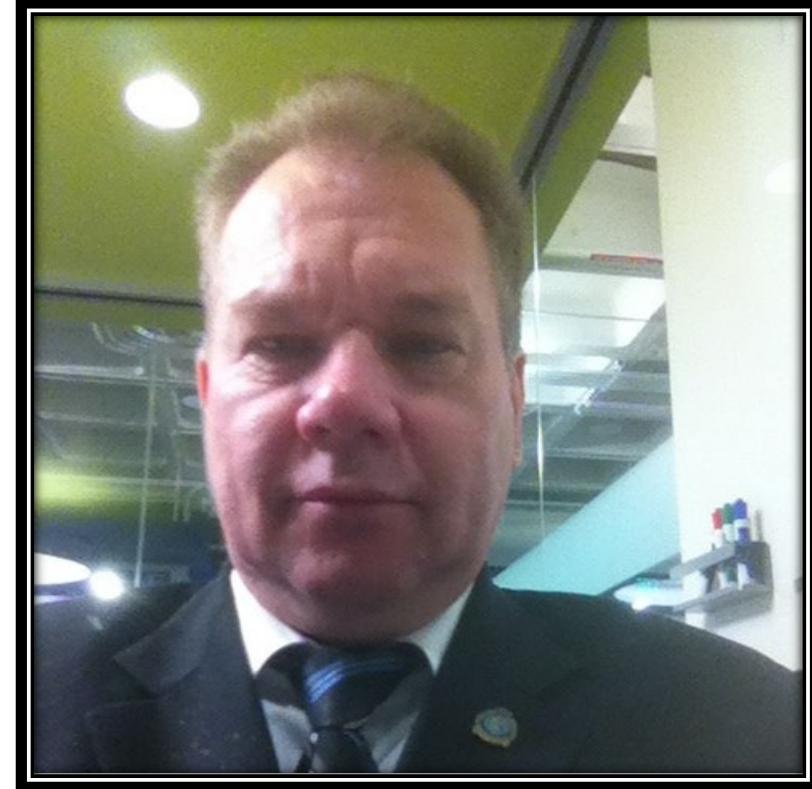
Represented: New York
Notices and Correspondence 2023-2025

Steven has served in multiple leadership roles during his term. He served as Vice Chair in 2023, Chair in 2024 and 2025, led the Screening Team, and consistently attended both subcommittees to help ensure cohesion across the teams. His efforts this year were especially impactful, helping bridge the gap between the TCS operating division of the IRS and NCC, laying a strong foundation for future collaboration on projects.

Thank you for your leadership, dedication, and the contributions you have made to the TAP program!

Chuck served in leadership roles during his term as Vice Chair in 2025 and Subcommittee Lead. He also served on the Outreach Committee and Screening Team, contributed to ad hoc projects, and authored multiple newsletter articles. He led the committee with optimism in key discussions and supported internal work. He took on an active role during outreach opportunities to speak with citizens about the TAP mission, which helped strengthen public trust and instilled a positive and accurate view of the IRS. Chuck played a key role in maintaining committee morale and keeping the members engaged.

Thank you for your contributions and commitment to the program!



Charles "Chuck" Slaney
Represented: Oregon
Toll-Free Phone Lines 2023-2025

Jantel held leadership roles during her term as Chair in 2023, and Subcommittee Lead. She guided members through discussions, issue development, and referral refinement. She served on the Screening Team in both 2024 and 2025, contributing to the early evaluation and shaping of potential issues, and fostered collaborative relationships by assisting new members to learn about the committee's processes and expectations.

She provided clear guidance and constructive feedback throughout the issue-screening process. Her encouragement of data-driven thinking and thorough analysis strengthened the quality of the committee's referrals with consistent development.

Thank you for your support and commitment to TAP's mission, we wish you the best!



Jantel VanOrden

Represented: Utah
Toll-Free Phone Lines 2023-2025



James “Jim” Wiseman

Represented: Tennessee
Taxpayer Communications 2023-2025

In 2024, during his second year, Jim served as Chair. Under his leadership, the committee submitted multiple referrals, addressing very important issues affecting taxpayers. His expertise as a tax professional provided very valuable information and guidance to TAP members while working and approving referrals.

In addition, he was always available and willing to collaborate with TAP staff to maintain a high morale among other committee members and keep them engaged and focus on TAP’s work and goals.

Thank you so much and we wish you the best!

Expressions of Gratitude



*“I would like to extend my sincere thanks to both **Steven Hall** and **Joseph Parampathu** for their outstanding service on the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. It has been a real pleasure working alongside each of you. Your inquisitive approach, thoughtful questions, and willingness to dig into complex issues consistently elevated our discussions and helped us better serve taxpayers.*

I have especially appreciated how both of you were always prepared, open to different perspectives, and unfailingly helpful to fellow panel members. Your dedication, professionalism, and collaborative spirit have made a lasting impact on our work and on me personally. Thank you for your commitment and for the meaningful contributions you’ve made during your time on TAP.”

–John Shoemaker

“Melanie Almeida will be sorely missed. She was an extremely valuable committee member and leader with a great eye for detail. She was diligent about doing all of her homework - always read the pre-reads! Her personality was one that allowed her to relate well to all TAP members as well as IRS staff, and all of our projects were better when she had a hand in preparing them.”

“Jim Wiseman was an active member and leader of TAP. He was able to ask tough questions while remaining courteous and professional. His sense of humor was a plus! We will miss him!!”

-Michelle Brookens





“Steven Sklar began as my mentor during my first year on the NCC committee, and his guidance has made a difference. It was Steven who inspired me to raise my hand for NCC Vice Chair that very first year, giving me the confidence to step into leadership sooner than I ever expected. As NCC Chair this year, Steven has been steady, reliable, and genuinely committed. Even after a medical event that would have understandably caused many to step back, Steven continued to serve. His dedication to TAP and to our committee never wavered.

One memory that will always stay with me is Steven’s thoughtful insistence that our recommended notices and correspondence include the word “please.” It may have been a small detail, but it showed his belief in respect, kindness, and the human side of the work we do. Steven’s leadership, integrity, and kindness have left a lasting impression on me, and I’m grateful for the example he set.”

-Mitchell Gerstein



“Manny Dominguez and I have served together on the NCC committee for the past two years, and I’ve always valued working alongside him. Near the end of 2024, Manny shared the news of his appointment to the IRS Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee. With that new responsibility, it was completely understandable that he expected the workload might be too much to continue his third year with TAP.

Even so, Manny recognized the importance of the work we do, and he chose to remain involved throughout this year. His continued participation and commitment were meaningful. I’m grateful for his dedication and willingness to stay engaged despite the added demands on his time.”

-Mitchell Gerstein

*"I want to take a moment to personally recognize **Ellen Dickey** for the incredible impact she has had on me and on the Tax Forms and Publications Committee. When I first joined TAP last year, Ellen was serving as Chair of our committee. I still remember meeting her for the first time at the face-to-face meeting in Jacksonville. She greeted me with such warmth and kindness that any nerves I had disappeared immediately. It meant a lot to feel welcomed so genuinely, and it's a moment I'll always carry with me.*

Throughout that first year, I had the chance to watch Ellen lead TF&P with steady guidance, patience, and a level of professionalism that truly set the tone for our group. One of the personal highlights for me was when she asked me to represent our committee at the Joint Committee planning meeting in her absence. As a new member, that trust meant the world, and it's something I've never forgotten. This year, after I nominated her, Ellen stepped into the role of Vice Chair. Serving alongside her this time as Chair myself, I often found myself thinking back to the example she set. I tried my best to lead with the same clarity, fairness, and thoughtfulness that I had been fortunate enough to observe from her the year before. She has been a grounding presence and a partner I knew I could count on. Ellen, your contributions to TAP, and especially to TF&P, have been invaluable. But even more than that, your kindness, your consistency, and the way you treat people are what truly stand out. I'm grateful for the time we've worked together, and I will always appreciate the support and friendship you've shown me. I wish you nothing but the very best in all your future endeavors, and I genuinely hope our paths cross again."



*-Jason Crispin, New Jersey
Tax Forms and Publications
2025 Committee Chair*



“Steven Hall’s consistency, dedication, and genuine care for TAP are qualities I want to highlight and thank him for. His contributions to TAP were always appreciated, reliable, and made our work meaningful in the end.”

-Dr. Timi Akindele



“Melanie Almeida, Thanks for being so welcoming and collaborative. Wishing you all the best and remember even if you're off TAP you can always continue to TAP. “

“Michelle Brookens, Thanks for your mentorship and leadership. It was a privilege to work with you.”

“Manuel “Manny” Dominguez, Thanks for your consistency, diligence, and welcoming me to the Panel. ”

“James “Jim” Wiseman, It was great to work together in providing a voice to taxpayers. Wishing you the very best.”

-Philip Hwang

“Manny Dominguez is a stalworth volunteer on Notices and Correspondence and brings a unique insight to each project he works on. He has been a pleasure to work with and learn from in all of his other volunteer advisory committee efforts.”

“Steven Sklar our truly fearless leader of the Notices and Correspondence committee. I am fortunate to learn under Steve's leadership the past two years, from his ability maneuvering the TAP and IRS rigamarole to simplifying asking our parent organization to use the word "please" when communicating with taxpayers. Steve is a pleasure to work with and represents TAP and our mission well. We are grateful for his dedicated volunteer time, extraordinary talent, and incredible treasure.”

-Kyle Kipple



*"I would like to personally thank **each of the members** rotating off of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. This committee performs a lot of challenging work and many of the things the IRS is responsible for performing might not happen without the assistance of the volunteers serving on the TAP.*

Thank you all very much for your service and your country is appreciative of your service."

-Joseph T. Holley, former committee Chairman



Thank You!



“To all 3rd Year Members,
I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to everyone rolling off. Your dedication and unwavering commitment have been the driving force behind the Panel’s success. Together, we’ve tackled all sorts of challenges, shaped meaningful recommendations, and ensured that taxpayer voices were heard.

The impact of your contributions goes far beyond the work itself—it reflects a shared passion for improving the IRS. It has been an honor to collaborate with such talented and principled individuals.

Thank you for your hard work, your insights, and the spirit of collaboration that made this journey so rewarding.”

—Philip Hwang

Wishing you all the best!

- Melanie Almeida
- Jason Brinkley
- Michelle Brookens
- Aissata Diaby
- Ellen Dickey
- Manuel “Manny” Dominguez
- Anthony “Tony” Earwood
- Joel Gelb
- Steven Hall
- Joseph Parampathu
- Steven Sklar
- Charles “Chuck” Slaney
- Jantel VanOrden
- James “Jim” Wiseman

