

Update on National Licensing

There has been a lot of talk over the last several years about the IRS creating a national licensing program. In a press release issued June 4, 2009, IRS Commissioner Shulman announced that by the end of 2009, he will propose a comprehensive set of recommendations to better leverage the efforts of the tax return preparer community with the twin goals of increasing taxpayer compliance and ensuring uniform and high ethical standards of conduct for tax preparers. I was invited to attend and give a presentation on Oregon's licensing program at the September 2, 2009 public forum in Washington, D.C. It was a great opportunity to brag about Oregon's licensing program, recognized around the nation as the most successful and comprehensive program for tax practitioners in the nation.

- 1) January 4, 2010 Final report: IRS, Return Preparer Review
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4832.pdf>

- 2) January 4, 2010 IRS press release: IR-210-1 (1/04/10) IRS Proposes New Registration, Testing and Continuing Education Requirements for Tax Return Preparers Not Already Subject To Oversight. Input this Summer
<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=217781,00.html>

- 3) August 17, 2009 IRS press release: IRS Seeks Comments from Government Agencies at Upcoming Public Forum on Proposals to Advance Tax Preparers Performance
<http://www.irs.gov/irs/article/0,,id=212074,00.html>

- 4) July 14, 2009 IRS press release: Tax Preparer Review; Public Forums to Gather Input this Summer
<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=210738,00.html>

- 5) June 4, 2009 IRS press release: IRS Launches Tax Return Preparer Review; Recommendations to Improve Compliance Expected by Year End
<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=209375,00.html>

6) United States Government Accountability Office, Report to the Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08781.pdf>

7) Talking Points for IRS Public Forums; Ron Wagner, Executive Director, Oregon Board of Tax Practitioners

http://www.oregon.gov/OTPB/news/09-02-09_irs_public_forum_talking_points.pdf