

**Government Contracts Section**

The Government Contracts Section's Federal Grants Committee hosted a panel discussion called "Ask a Lawyer," at which speakers discussed grants law issues. The event was held at the National Grants Management Association's annual training conference on April 21, in Rockville, Md. Featured panelists included Tom Armstrong, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Peter Wathen-Dunn, U.S. Department of Education; Stacia Le Blanc, Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP, a past chair of the Government Contracts Section; and Jennifer Schwab, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These top attorneys shared their expertise and provided insight on grants law related to the Recovery Act, appropriations law, financial and administrative issues, as well as topics dealing with pre-award and post-award matters, audits, and governmentwide programs, among other issues. Jana Gagner, the co-chair of the section's Federal Grants Committee, moderated the discussion; Ed Levin, longtime committee member, provided a look at the Grants Law Year in Review, courtesy of Management Concepts Inc.; and Matt McGrath, section chair-elect, assisted with proceedings.

**Section on Taxation**

On April 30, the Section on Taxation sponsored its sixth event in the continuing Women in Tax Law series. This biannual program provides female tax professionals in government and the private sector with opportunities for professional development and networking.



Section on Taxation: At the Women in Tax Law series event—(l to r) Teresa Trissell, IRS Office of Chief Counsel, P&A; Libby Coffin, United Technologies Corporation; Jean Pawlow, McDermott Will & Emery LLP; Helen Morrison, Office of Tax Policy, Department of Treasury; and Kari Larson, Latham & Watkins LLP.

This event, entitled "Networking and Building Relationships: Strategies and Practical Advice for Women in Tax Practice," featured a panel presentation by the following accomplished women: Jean A. Pawlow, partner at McDermott Will & Emery LLP; Helen H. Morrison, deputy benefits tax counsel, Office of Tax Policy, Department of Treasury; and Elizabeth (Libby) B. Coffin, director of tax affairs, United Technologies Corporation.

Each speaker shared her personal story of how she came to be involved in tax law and what led her to the position she holds today. The panelists then shared their experience and gave advice on building and maintaining professional relationships as well as

making use of advantages and overcoming unique challenges facing female tax practitioners. Kari Larson of Latham & Watkins LLP, chair-elect of the Section on Taxation, moderated the event, which was attended by approximately 45 tax professionals. The event, hosted by Latham & Watkins LLP, concluded with a networking reception. **TFL**

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