



Q&A with U.S. Tax Court Judge Cary Douglas Pugh

By Jeremiah Coder

Judge Pugh was nominated to the U.S. Tax Court by President Obama, confirmed by the Senate, and began a 15-year appointment on December 16, 2014. Judge Pugh is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and clerked for Chief Judge Jackson L. Kiser of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia. In addition to several stints in private practice, Judge Pugh also served as tax counsel to the Senate Finance Committee and was special counsel to the IRS Chief Counsel.

Writing is such an important part of being a lawyer. What did you learn about legal writing from your clerkship with Chief Judge Kiser of the Western District of Virginia that helped you at the start of your career?

I most vividly recall two lessons in particular that influenced my approach to drafting opinions, although not tied directly to legal writing. First, the issues presented in cases before the Court are not academic or legal problems – they are business or personal problems for the parties (who generally are not lawyers). Second, the parties deserve an explanation for the outcome (although it can be brief).

How would you encourage lawyers today to approach legal writing, regardless of where a person is in their career trajectory?

I always urge lawyers to write so that a non-lawyer can understand it. Clarity and simplicity even with complex concepts is possible if you truly understand the issue. It is more convincing too. Some simple rules include the following: Do not use a big word when a little word will do. Proofread. Then do it again. Edit ruthlessly. You can almost always cut words and improve clarity.

Thinking back to your time as a young lawyer in private practice, how did you approach gaining meaningful legal experience and growing professionally?

I was fortunate to start my legal career with mentors who valued public service and outside legal activities instead of, or in addition to, practice at a firm. And when I expressed interest in public service, I was encouraged to pursue it. It is quite true that I stand on the shoulders of many others.

At this point in your career, you have worked in all 3 branches of government—legislative, executive, and

Message from the Chair Ryan J. Kelly



It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Chair of the Federal Bar Association's Section on Taxation. The Section's mission is to promote the welfare, interests, education, and professional growth of our members. We do this by: (1) organizing events for federal judges and tax attorneys to network professionally and to interact socially so that they can build relationships; (2) providing continuing legal education opportunities on the most cutting edge tax topics and issues; (3) providing opportunities to give back to the community through projects and fundraisers; and (4) giving you the opportunity to lead by being an Officer in the Section, or by joining one of our committees like the Young Tax Lawyers Group, the Women in Tax Law Group, or the Tax Practice and Procedure Group. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you would like to become more involved in the Section.

The Section on Taxation is expanding rapidly. Since the begin-

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judicial. Are there any consistencies regarding the legal profession or practice of tax that have struck you, having had these various positions?

Throughout my career I have found consistently that integrity is paramount, whatever the job may be – your reputation and the respect that you show others are more important than your raw intellect. Intellect is helpful but you will face limits to what you can do on your own and you will be on your own if others do not trust and respect you. I have observed on too many occasions to count that you do not have to be the smartest if you work with smart people whom you trust and who trust you in return.

Is the practice of tax “special” compared to other types of legal practice? Should tax lawyers be engaging themselves more in issues outside our specialized field?

The best tax lawyers I know do not wear “tax blinders” – they have excellent peripheral vision. They add value to every project or issue that they touch – tax and non-tax alike – because they apply their judgment and common sense and do not ignore the obvious problem even if it is not strictly in their expertise. Although they also understand when they lack expertise and need to defer, they cannot be bluffed even on issues outside their core competency.

When did you realize you were first interested in pursuing a career as a federal judge?

I never viewed appointment as a federal judge to be something to be “pursued,” so getting the call about the nomination felt like lightning striking. I was asked whether I might consider the Tax Court in 2002 or 2003. I was surprised and honored and thought it would be great, but was not sure that I was ready. When I was approached again a few years ago (initiating the process ultimately culminating in my confirmation in 2014) I was shocked but also (again) honored that others showed that sort of confidence and faith in my abilities. This time I listened more carefully to the “call” and said yes. I have been buoyed by that trust in my abilities and hope I live up to the confidence placed in me.

Having served in a variety of roles in the legal profession during your career, what were you most looking forward to in becoming a judge? What is something unexpected that you have encountered so far?

I was looking forward to the small claims court aspect of our role in the tax system. Giving average people a chance to get their day in court about a tax issue is vital to respect for our system of self-assessment. I enjoy that more than I

could have imagined, although I am also challenged by it. And I find it all very interesting (as a tax “nerd”). I also enjoy the travel for court but I did not appreciate how much we are out on session outside D.C. It is important to give the smaller taxpayers the option of a trial closer to their homes. Finally, although I should not have been, I was surprised by the number of tax protestors still pressing their frivolous and groundless positions.

Are there any case management practices you deem essential in managing your caseload or that maybe set you apart from other judges on the Tax Court?

I cannot identify anything that sets me apart, although I joke that as a new judge I take twice the amount of time to do half as much as my more experienced colleagues. I have tried to learn best practices from my colleagues to accelerate my learning curve (emulating them even as I try to find a style that suits my personality). My willingness to ask questions of colleagues might be different (I do not know), but certainly my colleagues’ willingness to entertain my questions has been “essential” to my more efficient management of cases. Large cases are the typical fare in large firm practices but by far the bulk of my docket are small ones with unrepresented taxpayers. I also am heartened when colleagues who have been here for decades tell me that they have not encountered an issue before when I ask them yet another question. I expect that there will always be something new no matter how long I serve on the Court.

What are one or two key pointers that you would recommend to a tax lawyer who is handling her very first tax case in the Tax Court?

Some of the best advice I have received over the years is to read the rules. And read them again. I also urge less experienced lawyers to ask other practitioners for tips – about the Court, about opposing counsel, and even about the particular judge. Through bar organizations, like the FBA and other professional groups, you will find people willing to help.

In conjunction with the Tax Court, bar organizations and academic clinics have increased opportunities for tax lawyers to participate in representation of pro bono and low-income taxpayers before the Court. What improvements has this caused to the system, and what challenges still remain?

The assistance provided to low income taxpayers most obviously is valuable to those taxpayers who take advantage of it. But it also helps the Court and IRS counsel. First, as a

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judge, I do not have to worry about explaining the process and helping the taxpayer navigate the system. When we have to involve ourselves more actively in the trial presentation we run the risk of doing something that might be viewed as “unfair” to one side or the other. Likewise, IRS counsel do not have to worry about helping the taxpayer navigate the system and can focus on their primary role of representing the IRS. I think IRS counsel generally do a good job working with unrepresented taxpayers and they try to get it right even though it can be a difficult balance (that is, they do not try to collect the most revenue but the correct revenue). We see a lot of cases conceded once the taxpayer comes forward with support, for example. But often taxpayers are suspicious of the IRS and need someone else to evaluate their case.

Whenever I am asked to speak publicly, I take the opportunity to urge practitioners in private practice to volunteer to support the tax system in this way. While the programs have increased, there is still unmet demand – it remains a challenge.

I know you enjoy fishing; where are your favorite spots?

Any places on your bucket list?

That list is long indeed. Of the places I have fished, I do love (in no particular order) Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean (for bonefish and trevally), the Amazon jungle in Bolivia (for golden dorado), the North Island of New Zealand (for rainbow and brown trout), and Scotland (for Atlantic salmon). One day I hope to go to Kamchatka (partly because I just like saying it and partly because of my Russian studies background), and the Seychelles. But at the top of my bucket list is Cuba. I have had an abiding fascination with Cuba for as long as I can remember (perhaps something to do with my Russian studies, perhaps Cuban jazz, or perhaps the coffee or food, or the Cuban cousin). I dream of returning to some places I have visited as well. And I look forward to discovery of the next great new remote location. The more remote, the better. Locally, I love the Potomac for smallmouth and shad, the Shenandoah National Park brook trout streams and Spruce Creek, PA, in case you are looking for ideas. ☘

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ning of 2016, the Section’s membership has grown by 20 percent. While the Section hosts educational and social events for its members in Washington, DC on a regular basis, the number of events hosted in other cities has steadily increased. In 2016, the Section is on track to host events

in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, New York, San Diego, and St. Louis. Current information on upcoming Section events is available at our Federal Bar website. I hope to see you at our next event and I thank you for supporting the Section on Taxation. ☘

Interview with Deborah Meland, Section Chief of the Civil Trial Section, Eastern Region, United States Department of Justice, Tax Division

By Jessica Ornsby (Miller & Chevalier Chartered)

You have spent your entire legal career in the Department of Justice. How did you decide to begin your career at the Department of Justice and what has kept you there?

Deborah Meland: I would describe myself as an “accidental tax litigator.” I received some great advice to apply to the Tax Division from a professor of mine, Janet Spragens, who was an attorney at the Tax Division before she went into teaching taxation. Ms. Spragens was a great professor at the American University Washington College of Law, who made tax both interesting and fun. I enjoyed the many tax classes I took during law school, I also knew I wanted to be in the courtroom, and I was interested in public service, so the Tax Division seemed like the perfect place for me to begin my career.

I joined the Tax Division through the Attorney General’s Honors Program right out of law school. In 1983, when I applied to the Honors Program, I had to sign on for a four-year commitment (the commitment was recently reduced to three years). I did not plan to stay beyond the commitment. However, I liked the subject matter, the ability to learn more on substantive issues and about litigation with each case I handled, and the increasing responsibilities, so the time passed quickly. I also valued the ability to practice law and not concern myself with billable hours or client development, so I decided to stay at the Division.

Can you walk me through the progression of your career at the Department of Justice?

Deborah Meland: I joined the Tax Division in 1983 and began my career as a trial attorney in the Civil Trial Section for the Northern Region. In 1994, I was selected as an Assistant Chief in that same trial section. From September 2004 through March 2005, I was detailed to the Tax Division’s “front office” as Chief of Staff to the Tax Division’s Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Trial Matters, who at the time was Claire Fallon. I returned to my position as Assistant Chief for a short time, and then in August 2006 was selected as the Chief of the Office of Review. As the name implies, the Office of Review reviews the Division’s largest (in terms of dollars) and most complex settlements. In that position I designed and stood up the Division’s Financial Litigation Unit within the Office of Review. Also during my tenure with the Office of Review, I chaired the Division’s inaugural Diversity Committee. The Diversity Committee’s primary goals were to develop programs with both an immediate impact and long term effect. Some of the programs started by the Committee included brown bag lunches with various affinity groups, professional development opportunities for attorneys, development of



a web page with diversity related resources and increased outreach and attendance at recruiting events. In 2012, I became the Chief of the Civil Trial Section for the Eastern Region.

What are your primary responsibilities as Chief of the Civil Trial Section, Eastern Region? What does your typical day look like?

Deborah Meland: I am responsible for all the civil tax litigation in the district courts in 10 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, I am responsible for much of the bankruptcy court litigation involving IRS claims in those same areas. I supervise 25-30 attorneys, plus support staff. My typical day is a patchwork of working with attorneys on case strategies, development, and negotiations; working with attorneys and support staff on their professional development; contributing to discussions on policy within the Division and Department; and working with IRS Chief Counsel on a wide array of issues. In addition, there are personnel, staffing, and human resource issues that come up on a regular basis.

Has anything about your role as a section chief surprised you?

Deborah Meland: Not really. The time I spent both as an Assistant Chief and as Chief of Staff prepared me to be

ready to handle many issues at any given time and to never be surprised by what can come up when you are dealing with a large organization.

In what ways has the Tax Division changed during your tenure?

Deborah Meland: While the basic structure of the Division has stayed the same, there have been some changes:

The people have changed: our workforce is much more diverse than it was when I joined the Division.

The technology has changed: when I started, attorneys wrote everything in long-hand or dictated onto a tape. We did not have email or the internet; sending a fax or “Express Mail” was a big deal and we had to fill out a form if we accepted a collect call. There was no electronic case filing and no “ESI”—electronically stored information—to deal with in discovery; everything was on paper.

The mix of cases has changed: we have more affirmative injunction cases now.

Can you describe the nature of the unique attorney/client relationship with the Internal Revenue Service?

Deborah Meland: We have a good relationship with the IRS and the IRS Chief Counsel. They are our client-agency and we listen carefully to their views, which carry a lot of weight with us. At the same time, at DOJ we understand that we serve the United States and not just one agency, so we have to look at issues and policies with a wider lens. And, on those few occasions when, after listening, researching, and doing our own due diligence, we conclude that the IRS and/or IRS Chief Counsel position should not be asserted or should not be defended, we take the position we think is correct.

Can you elaborate on the areas where your section has nationwide jurisdiction?

Deborah Meland: My section has nationwide jurisdiction over cases in litigation involving requests made under the FOIA to the IRS and the Tax Division, as well as cases that allege violations of the Privacy Act by the IRS or the Tax Division. The section also handles cases where states attempt to tax federal agencies and facilities, but those are few in number.

Apart from the day to day, are you in a position to see trends? For example, when the Supreme Court rules on a tax issue such as summons enforcement in *United States v. Clarke*, 134 S. Ct. 2361 (June 19, 2014), do you see it filter through the lower courts?

Deborah Meland: Trends are usually seen in hindsight; but I can see an uptick in a certain types of litigation or certain issues being raised in several cases as a result of a court decision or change in the law. Additionally, courts appear to place more emphasis upon litigants to take steps toward settlement of issues.

What advice do you have for young attorneys interested in a career in the Tax Division?

Deborah Meland: Young attorneys interested in the Tax Division should want a challenging position with a lot of responsibility and autonomy. The work is varied, challenging, and will force an attorney to get out of his or her comfort zone on a regular basis. Trial attorneys need to enjoy research, factual development, analysis, and writing, all on short deadlines. Our workplace is collegial, welcoming, and diverse.

In recent years, we hired about two-thirds of our attorneys as laterals, that is, with one or more years of legal experience (which can include a clerkship). We look for an eclectic mix of skills and qualities. The jobs are posted on USAjobs. It is okay to apply more than once.

It is also important to find good mentors and to maintain those relationships throughout a legal career. ☘

Thinking Tax: Expansion of Section 179 Under the PATH Act

By Christopher Whitcomb

Of late, there has been a dearth of legislative activity relating to tax policy. But an important exception to this trend was the “PATH Act,” which was signed into law on Dec. 18, 2015. The PATH Act extended or made permanent many previously temporary tax provisions, marking an end to the annual “tax extender” debate that placed these provisions up for continuous renewal. This article focuses on an important cost recovery provision frequently used by business owners—Section 179. While this provision is not overly complicated, it is regularly used by many business

owners, and it is a good example of the extent to which the PATH Act made a permanent a significant change in how many businesses deal with capital expenditures.

Under Section 179, taxpayers may elect to immediately deduct, or “expense,” the cost of qualified property, rather than deduct the cost of such property over time (and by type of property) under the Internal Revenue Code’s depreciation schedules. In order to spur business investment in capital improvements, Congress has gradually increased the amount allowed to be expensed and the type of property

that qualifies for expensing under Section 179. In 2015, taxpayers could expense up to \$500,000 in qualifying improvements of up to \$2,000,000 that were placed in service during the year. Qualified property is defined as depreciable tangible personal property purchased for active use in a trade or business.

Beginning in 2015, Congress had also given taxpayers the ability to deduct off-the-shelf computer software and up to \$250,000 in qualified real property under Section 179. Qualified real property included qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

This increased deduction created a powerful incentive for taxpayers to purchase and place in service more expensive improvements that they might have otherwise put off or not elected to purchase under the Code's "normal" cost recovery rules. For example, office equipment—which includes non-structural furniture and fixtures—typically

has a MACRS depreciation schedule of 7 years. It is exactly the type of improvement that a business owner might easily delay given its somewhat lengthy cost recovery period. Further, the ability for business owners to expense certain improvements to real property provides a substantial benefit to businesses that need to make structural improvements, such as building out a new kitchen in a restaurant.

Thus, Congress increased these limits with the view that such an incentive would spur capital investment. However, at the end of 2015, the Section 179 expensing limit was scheduled to decrease to \$25,000 and expensing for qualified real property and off-the-shelf computer software would be eliminated.

The PATH Act made permanent these changes to Section 179, indexing the higher expensing levels to inflation. But perhaps the biggest impact the PATH Act made to provisions such as Section 179 expensing was to provide for greater predictability. ☘

Federal Bar Association

TAX LAW



CONFERENCE 2017

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Recent Events of the FBA Section on Taxation

FBA Section on Taxation Conferences

The Section on Taxation held the 40th Annual Tax Law Conference on March 4, in Washington, D.C. This year's conference featured more than 70 speakers from the Federal government, including the Chief Counsel of the IRS, the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice Tax Section, and the Commissioner of the IRS. More than 500 attorneys from the government and private practice attended this conference, which focused on all aspects of civil and criminal tax law.

On June 2-3, the Federal Bar Association Section of Taxation held the 28th Annual Insurance Tax Seminar. The Seminar is held in conjunction with the IRS Office of Chief Counsel. We had record-setting attendance this year and an overall great Seminar headlined by an outstanding keynote speaker, Mark Mazur, Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Tax Policy. The Insurance Tax Seminar presents a unique opportunity for meaningful dialogue between government personnel and private sector specialists on a variety of federal income tax issues affecting insurance companies and their policyholders. The panels include the IRS and Treasury experts on the relevant topic. This year's Seminar included discussions on life, health and property casualty industry tax issues, updates on guidance from the Insurance Branch of the Office of Chief Counsel, a plenary session on the impact of NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) regulatory guidance on federal



income tax issues, a panel on the Administrative Procedure Act and deference to the IRS and a variety of timely topics impacting multinational insurance companies such as the BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) project, transfer pricing, the new proposed inversion and debt/equity regulations and the new U.S. Model Tax Treaty, in addition to other topics. Next year's Seminar is scheduled for June 1-2, 2017 at the J.W. Marriott in Washington, D.C. ☞



Women in Tax Law

FBA Women in Tax Law held a networking luncheon Thursday, Feb. 11 at PricewaterhouseCoopers. The conversation led by Lisa Zarlenga, partner at Steptoe & Johnson, included issues related to implementing and improving diversity recruitment, female attorney retention and flexible work schedules.

On April 28, Women in Tax Law invited Katie Ahern, Director of the Business Start-Up Clinic at Roger Williams University School of Law and professor at University of Rhode Island, to speak about self-promotion and personal marketing.

During the presentation, Ms. Ahern provided strategies and tips to best track personal achievements accomplished through the year and how to leverage those achievements within your office or in the market. Ms. Ahern went on to share personal anecdotes about how she obtained notoriety with partners at her previous firm, Hinkley Allen, as well as with clients. Ms. Ahern served as President of the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association and remains passionate about issues women face in the legal profession. We hope to have her back in the future! ☘

FBA Tax Regional Meetings

Chicago: Evening with the Judiciary

On March 16, the Section on Taxation co-sponsored an event at Northwestern University School of Law for Judge Tamara W. Ashford. Approximately 50 tax practitioners and tax LL.M. students attended the event. Judge Ashford shared information about her experience serving on the United States Tax Court and also provided advice to attorneys appearing before the Court. Judge Ashford joined the networking reception for attendees after sharing her remarks.



Chicago: Evening with the Judiciary

St. Louis: CLE Program

On Oct. 20, 2015, the FBA St. Louis Chapter and the FBA Section on Taxation co-sponsored a CLE program at the St. Louis University School of Law entitled "Litigating Tax Controversies: Views from the Bench, Government, and Bar." The panel discussion, moderated by SLU Law Professor Kerry A. Ryan, featured insights from the Honorable Ronald L. Buch, United States Tax Court; Stephen Haller, Associate Area Counsel, IRS Office of Chief Counsel; James E. Crowe, Jr., Criminal Chief, U.S. Attorney's Office (former Trial Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division); and David Curtin, Partner, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP (also a former Trial Attorney with the DOJ Tax Division). Approximately 60 practitioners and law students attended the program, which was followed by a networking reception on the top floor atrium of the law school.



St. Louis: CLE Program

FBA Tax Miami's Evening with the Judiciary

On June 7, 2016, the Section on Taxation sponsored an event in Miami for Judge Albert G. Lauber. Approximately 30 tax practitioners attended the event. Judge Lauber discussed year-end tax legislation that affected the Tax Court, as well as an update on the Tax Court's Rules Revision project. Judge Lauber joined the network reception for attendees after sharing his remarks.

45 tax practitioners and tax LL.M. students attended the event. Judge Colvin shared information about his experience serving on the United States Tax Court and also provided information regarding the Court's opinion review process. Judge Colvin joined the networking reception for attendees after sharing his remarks. ☘



FBA Tax Miami's Evening with the Judiciary

FBA Tax New York's Evening with the Judiciary

On Sept. 26, the Section on Taxation held an event at 1095 Avenue of the Americas in New York for United States Tax Court Judge, John O. Colvin. Approximately

CLE Programs

On Feb. 4, the FBA Section on Taxation hosted a live CLE program and webinar: “The Research Tax Credit Under Section 41: Legislative Update and Guide to Claiming and Defending the Credit.” The program featured panelists Warren Payne, Senior Advisor, Mayer Brown LLP; Alex Sadler, Partner, Ivins, Phillips & Barker; and Urvi Doshi

Sood, Director of Tax Planning and Senior Tax Counsel, Lockheed Martin Corporation; and was moderated by Christine Hooks of Mayer Brown LLP. Tax attorneys from both private practice and government attended in person and online to hear the panelists’ valuable insights on recent legislative changes as well as practical advice on claiming, documenting, and defending the credit. ☞

FBA Section on Taxation Law Day Program

The FBA Section on Taxation’s “Law Day” program was held at the United States Tax Court on April 5. More than 40 individuals were served by the outreach program, including 30 students from Eastern Senior High School in Washington, DC and 15 FBA Section on Taxation attorney volunteers.

The event began with a breakfast at the Tax Court where the students interacted with the FBA volunteers and Tax Court attorneys. Following breakfast, the students were given a tour of the Court. The students also watched a video on the Court’s electronic courtroom and a primer on filing a petition with the Court. Four Tax Court Judges shared stories with the students about their life experiences, provided career advice to the students, and answered the students’ questions. Each judge had a unique background, which included overcoming obstacles, and a less than straightforward path to their current position. The students were highly engaged with the judges, and truly seemed to enjoy the experience. Judge Foley showed a number of students the robing room. Students also viewed the Court Conference Room where the judges deliberate Court-wide opinions.

After departing the Tax Court, the program continued at the Washington, DC office of Jones Day. The afternoon event took place in Jones Day’s roof-top conference room featuring views of the U.S. Capitol. The students enjoyed a buffet lunch and dined with the FBA volunteers. After lunch, a panel featuring several prominent tax attorneys

from a variety of backgrounds took place. The attorneys discussed their current roles, path to their current positions and advice for the students. The students asked questions about the role of the government, the recent tax cases involving bank secrecy, and what they needed to do to prepare for their careers. The program concluded after the panel at Jones Day and the students returned to school. ☞



United States Tax Court Judges Juan Vasquez and Maurice Foley with students from Eastern Senior High School



FBA Section on Taxation attorney volunteers at Jones Day

Young Tax Lawyers Events

Young Tax Lawyers Symposium

On April 1, the FBA Section on Taxation cosponsored the Young Tax Lawyers Symposium with the American Bar Association Section of Taxation and ABA Young Lawyers Division. The Symposium provided young attorneys and students an opportunity to hear from practitioners and federal judges on a variety of issues that are not covered in most law school courses. Topics discussed included the basics of IP tax law, privilege issues in Tax Court, the evolution of a criminal tax case, and an introduction to choice of forum in tax litigation. This event featured 16 prominent speakers from the public and private sectors, including U.S. Tax Court judges, the Joint Committee on Taxation, law firms, and accounting firms. More than 55 individuals attended this packed event hosted at Caplin & Drysdale. A networking reception followed at Rural Society.

Social Gatherings

The FBA Section on Taxation's Young Tax Lawyers Group held its second event of the 2015-16 fiscal year with a happy hour in December at Blackfinn Ameripub. The happy hour brought together a well-rounded group of both public and private sector tax lawyers. Those who braved the rainy weather were treated to great happy hour drink specials and what some have called the best bar food in town.

The FBA Section on Taxation's Young Tax Lawyers Group held its third event for the 2015-16 fiscal year in February with a winter networking event at Penn Quarter Sports Tavern. The happy hour brought together a diverse group of tax attorneys



from both the public and private sector.

Young Tax Lawyers Group Hosts a Summer Networking Event

On July 19, 2016, the Section on Taxation's Young Tax Lawyers Group held a summer networking event at Penn Quarter Sports Tavern. The happy hour brought together a diverse group of tax attorneys from both the public and private sector. The FBA Young Tax Lawyers Group is planning several networking events in the fall.

Please contact Kent Stackhouse, Robert Russell, or Drew Cummings if you would like to learn more about the Section on Taxation's Young Tax Lawyers Group or be included in our email list. ☘

FBA Section on Taxation Careers in Tax Law Panel

On April 22, the FBA Section on Taxation, co-sponsored an event at the Georgetown University Law Center, in association with the Georgetown Law LL.M. Tax Council student organization. The esteemed panel offered a unique retrospective discussion on important aspects of their careers, while also providing present and future perspectives for law students considering a career in tax law, as well as valuable insights for the practicing attorneys in attendance.

The panelists included (Seated L.-R.) the Honorable Judge Albert G. Lauber, United States Tax Court; Pam Olson, US Deputy Tax Leader and Washington National Tax Services (WNTS) Practice Leader, PwC; Armando Gomez, Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Washington, D.C.; and Barbara Young, Vice President, Global Tax Accounting & Compliance, Marriott International, Inc., along with moderator and FBA member (Standing) Richard Lilley, Washington National Tax Services (WNTS), PwC. ☘



Volunteer Activities

On June 15, Section members joined Habitat for Humanity to help build affordable housing for low and moderate-income DC residents. ☘



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