Tax Policy in a Time of Gridlock

The National Tax Association presents the 40th Annual Spring Symposium in association with the American Tax Policy Institute and the 8th Annual State-Local Tax Program

MAY 13–14, 2010
Holiday Inn Capitol
WASHINGTON DC

NTA American Tax Policy Institute
The National Tax Association presents the 40th Annual Spring Symposium in association with the American Tax Policy Institute and the 8th Annual State-Local Tax Program

REGISTRATION - Columbia Foyer
Thursday, May 13, 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Friday, May 14, 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

President
Harvey Galper

Program Chair
Alan Viard

Executive Director
J. Fred Giertz

All sessions will meet in the COLUMBIA BALLROOM

THURSDAY, MAY 13

8:45 – 9:00 AM
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

9:00 – 10:30 AM
FEDERAL TAX AND BUDGET ISSUES: A PANEL DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTS AND POLICIES
Organizer/Moderator: Harvey S. Rosen, Princeton University

Alan J. Auerbach, University of California-Berkeley
Austan Goolsbee, Council of Economic Advisers
Peter Merrill, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Harvey S. Rosen, Princeton University

10:30 – 10:45 AM
BREAK

10:45 – 12:15 PM
HOW DOES BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS INFORM TAX POLICY?
Organizer/Moderator: Joel Slemrod, University of Michigan

James Alm, Georgia State University — Testing Behavioral Economic Theories In Public Economics in the Laboratory
Raj Chetty, Harvard University — Salience and Taxation: Evidence and Policy Implications
Joel Slemrod, University of Michigan — Tax Policy Complexity: Who's Fooling Who?

Discussants: Alan J. Auerbach, University of California-Berkeley
Brian Erard, B. Erard & Associates

12:30 – 1:45 PM
LUNCHEON - DISCOVERY BALLROOM
Speaker: The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, Congressman, Maryland’s 8th District and Member of the United States House Committee on Ways and Means
Presentation of Davie-Davis Award for Public Service

2:00 – 3:30 PM
HEALTH CARE REFORM: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?
Organizer/Moderator: C. Eugene Steuerle, The Urban Institute

David Auerbach, Janet Holtzblatt, Paul Jacobs, Alexandra Minicozzi, Chapin White, Congressional Budget Office and Pamela Moomau, Joint Committee on Taxation — Would Health Insurance Mandates Increase Coverage? Synthesizing Perspectives from Health, Tax, and Behavioral Economics
Joseph Antos, American Enterprise Institute — Smarter (and Dumber) Subsidies For Health Insurance

Discussants: C. Eugene Steuerle, The Urban Institute
Fred T. Goldberg, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

3:30 – 3:45 PM
BREAK
3:45 – 5:15 PM
TAXING FIRMS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

Organizers/Moderators: Kimberly Clausing, Reed College and Dhammika Dharmapala, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Daniel Shaviro, New York University — The Case Against Foreign Tax Credits
Mihir Desai, Harvard University and Dhammika Dharmapala, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign — Taxes and the Organizational Form of Foreign Investment
Kimberly Clausing, Reed College — Multinational Firm Headquarters Decisions

Discussants: Dhammika Dharmapala, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Joel Slemrod, University of Michigan
Jennifer Gravelle, Congressional Budget Office

5:30-6:30 PM
RECEPTION - DISCOVERY BALLROOM

FRIDAY, MAY 14

8:45 – 10:15 AM
ISSUES AFFECTING LOWER INCOME TAXPAYERS: CREDITS AND RETURN PREPARATION

Organizer/Moderators: Joseph Bankman, Stanford University and Leslie Book, Villanova University

Karen Hawkins, Internal Revenue Service, Office of Professional Responsibility — Regulating Return Preparers
Elaine Maag, The Urban Institute — Simplifying the Law through a ‘Unified’ Credit for Low-Income Taxpayers
Joseph Bankman, Stanford University — Using Technology to Simplify Filing: Ready Return/Simple Return

Discussants: Nina Olson, Internal Revenue Service, National Taxpayer Advocate
Leslie Book, Villanova University

10:15 – 10:30 AM
BREAK

10:30 AM – NOON
TAX ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN A POST-CRISIS WORLD

Organizers/Moderators: Daniel Shaviro, New York University and Victoria J. Perry, International Monetary Fund and American Tax Policy Institute

Thornton Matheson and John Brondolo, International Monetary Fund — Financial Transaction Taxes
Joel Slemrod, University of Michigan, Daniel Shaviro, New York University and Douglas Shackelford, University of North Carolina — Taxation and Financial System Reform
Douglas Elliott, Brookings Institution — The Interface of Financial Regulation and Taxation

Discussants: Timothy Edgar, University of Western Ontario
Michael Keen, International Monetary Fund

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Harvey S. Rosen, Princeton University
Joel Slemrod, University of Michigan
C. Eugene Steuerle, Urban Institute
Dennis Zimmerman, American Tax Policy Institute
Friday, May 14, 2010

State-Local Tax Program  Fiscal Sustainability and Fiscal Institutions
Donald Boyd, Rockefeller Institute of Government

12:00 – 1:15 PM
LUNCHEON – DISCOVERY BALLROOM
Speaker: Richard Ravitch, Lieutenant Governor, State of New York

1:30 – 2:45 PM
STATE-LOCAL FISCAL CONDITIONS AND RESPONSES
Moderator: Ranjana Madhusudhan (Invited)
Scott Pattison, National Association of State Budget Officers
Christopher Hoene, National League of Cities
J. Fred Giertz, University of Illinois and Trustee, State Universities Retirement System
Nicholas Johnson, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

2:45 – 3:00 PM
BREAK

3:00 – 4:15 PM
FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, FISCAL INSTITUTIONS, AND POLITICS
Moderator: Sue Urahn, Pew Center on the States
Shanna Rose, New York University
Shayne Kavanaugh, Government Finance Officers Association
Lisa Parker, Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Program Chair
Donald Boyd, Rockefeller Institute of Government

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The NTA and ATPI gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following organizations:

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
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NTA has blocked a limited number of rooms at $259 single/double (plus 14.5% tax) for those attending the Symposium. Please register as soon as possible to be assured of these rates. The cutoff date for the NTA block is April 14, 2010.

Check-in time is after 4:00 PM and checkout time is prior to 12:00 noon. If you must cancel, please notify the hotel within 72 hours prior to arrival date to avoid charges.

Be sure to mention the National Tax Association when making reservations, which must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. The hotel will not hold any reservations unless secured by one of the above methods.

The National Tax Association does not make or guarantee reservations for those attending the symposium. Attendees are responsible for their own room charges.

Please register before April 16, 2010. Cancellations will be refunded minus a $25 service fee until April 30 and at half of the registration fee until May 3. No refunds for cancellations after May 7.
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

TAX POLICY IN A TIME OF GRIDLOCK

Thursday, May 13

FEDERAL TAX AND BUDGET ISSUES: A PANEL DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTS AND POLICIES

HOW DOES BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS INFORM TAX POLICY?
Testing Behavioral Economic Theories in Public Economics in the Laboratory
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HEALTH CARE REFORM: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?
Would Health Insurance Mandates Increase Coverage? Synthesizing Perspectives from Health, Tax, and Behavioral Economics
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Simulating Employee and Employer Responses to Changes in the Exclusion for Employer Sponsored Insurance

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ISSUES AFFECTING LOWER INCOME TAXPAYERS: CREDITS AND RETURN PREPARATION
IRS—Regulating Return Preparers
Simplifying the Law through a ‘Unified’ Credit for Low-Income Taxpayers
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TAX ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN A POST-CRISIS WORLD
Financial Transactions Taxes
Taxation and Financial System Reform
The Interface of Financial Regulation and Taxation

STATE-LOCAL TAX PROGRAM

Friday, May 14

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY AND FISCAL INSTITUTIONS

STATE-LOCAL FISCAL CONDITIONS AND RESPONSES

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, FISCAL INSTITUTIONS, AND POLITICS