

National Taxpayer Advocate Identifies Priority Areas and Challenges In Mid-Year Report to Congress

By Administrator

Wednesday, 16 July 2014 11:14 - Last Updated Wednesday, 16 July 2014 11:14

RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - Amid questions over the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of some groups seeking tax exempt status, National Taxpayer Advocate Nina Olson has identified priority issues the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) will address during the upcoming fiscal year.

The report is mandated by Congress. In it, Olson emphasizes the importance of taking concrete steps to give meaning to the recently adopted Taxpayer Bill of Rights, issuing refunds to victims of return preparer fraud, continuing to make improvements in the Exempt Organizations area and expanding the recently announced voluntary return preparer certification program to include competency testing.

The report praises the IRS for implementing the Advocate's longstanding recommendation to adopt a Taxpayer Bill of Rights. In addition, "the IRS ran a generally successful filing season (although taxpayer services were sub-optimal largely due to staffing limitations), instituted a more equitable approach to its Offshore Voluntary Disclosure initiative, and introduced a voluntary system for educating unenrolled return preparers," Olson wrote in a preface to the report. "All this is generally good news. But as we note in the report, the good news also raises additional questions and concerns."

The entire report can be found at

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/National-Taxpayer-Advocate-Identifies-Priority-Areas-and-Challenges-in-Mid-Year-Report-to-Congress>