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Tax and Bankruptcy Practice Group

Message from the Tax and Bankruptcy Practice Group Director, Tori Praul-Hedrick, Esq.:

The diversity of our practice, our strong work ethic, respectful treatment of our clients, and prompt responsiveness to their needs all have contributed to ICLS's success.

We successfully served more than 200 clients, through consultations, brief services, and full representation in 2018. Total decrease in tax liabilities, penalties, and interest was \$93,508. This means we helped our clients avoid paying unjustified charges. A total of \$20,829 were refunded to our clients, through our various efforts. In 2019, we expect to go beyond our previous numbers. Our primary focus is to assist clients that meet our income guidelines, however if you are having a tax issue, we may be able to assist you. To see if you qualify, contact us at (888)245-4257.

Who are we?

- Tori Praul Hedrick, Esq., Practice Group Director
- Charles Appel, Attorney II
- Rudy De La Torre, Paralegal II

Types of Services

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Bankruptcies and advice on resolving debt and collections.

- Advise and represent taxpayers facing IRS and CA State tax issues through the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC).

Low-Income Taxpayer (LITC)

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (“LITC”) is the core of our group.

- Funding is provided through LITC Office. The LITC Office is part of the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), which is the advocacy arm of the IRS.
- The purpose is to protect taxpayers’ rights by providing access to representation for low-income taxpayers, so that achieving correct outcome is not dependent on their ability to pay for representation.

What does the LITC do?

Three areas of focus:

- Provide *pro bono* representation on their behalf in tax disputes with the IRS;
- Educate taxpayers about their rights and responsibilities as taxpayers; and
- Identify and advocate for issues that impact low-income taxpayers.

In addition to representing taxpayers before the IRS and in U.S. Tax Court, the Tax and Bankruptcy Practice Group also carries out a number of educational presentations each year. In terms of advocacy, we track certain issues and if we see common themes, we notify the Taxpayer Advocate Service of the problem.

In general, the Tax and Bankruptcy Practice Group services are limited to IRS tax controversies, although we assist clients facing state tax issues as well.

Bankruptcy

At this time, the Tax and Bankruptcy Practice Group is providing counsel and advice, as well as representing a handful of clients in Bankruptcy cases.

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