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Potter to Leave IRS in June

by **Shamik Trivedi**

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Summary by **taxanalysts**™

Clarissa Potter, IRS deputy chief counsel (technical), will step down from that position in June to take a position in the private sector, the IRS confirmed May 4.

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Clarissa Potter, IRS deputy chief counsel (technical), will step down from that position in June to take a position in the private sector.

News of her departure was first announced in a May 3 internal memorandum sent by IRS Chief Counsel William J. Wilkins. According to that memo, Potter had not decided where in private practice she will go but is "exploring her options and will be spending some time off with her family."

A former professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center, Potter told Tax Analysts May 4 that she does not plan to return to academia. "I'm looking at different opportunities," she said.

Potter said her proudest moment during her time with the chief counsel's office was how the office came through the financial crisis. "We were just one part of the whole team, but we were faced with a lot of difficult questions. People here really stepped up and did everything right," she said.

Potter said it is difficult to predict whether she might return to government in a different capacity, but that she has enjoyed her time in public service. "Being in the government is just fantastic. It's a wonderful experience." Potter said she did not know who would replace her.

Potter joined the Service in 2005 as special counsel (legislation) to the IRS Chief Counsel, where she helped the IRS take on a more active role in the legislative process. She was quickly promoted to acting senior counsel to the chief counsel (legislation). At the time, Potter said her goal was "to serve as a lens through which all of the expertise at the IRS can be focused on legislative products." (For prior coverage, see *Doc 2005-23743*  or *2005 TNT 224-2* .)

Approximately one year later, Potter was again promoted, this time to the position which she is now leaving, replacing Heather Maloy, who is now commissioner of the IRS's Large Business and International Division. As deputy chief counsel (technical), Potter is tasked with planning and coordinating the interpretation and development of regulations in conjunction with the Treasury Department.

Before teaching at Georgetown, Potter was acting tax legislative counsel in the Office of Tax Policy at Treasury, and previously served as legislation counsel for the Joint Committee on Taxation. Potter received her BA degree from Miami University of Ohio in 1983 and her JD from Yale Law School in 1989, where she was managing editor of the *Yale Law and Policy Review*.

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