PRESS RELEASE: Tax Foundation Announces 2021 Distinguished Service Award Winners, October 6, 2021

The Tax Foundation today announced the recipients of its 2021 Distinguished Service Award: Michael J. Graetz of Columbia Law School, and Mark. J Mazur, Deputy Assistant Secretary for tax Policy for the U.S. Treasury. Graetz and Mazur will be honored at the Tax Foundation’s 84th annual Tax Prom, in November.

“Michael and Mark are two individuals who have had an outsized impact on the tax policy community for their entire careers,” Scott A. Hodge, president of the Tax Foundation, said upon announcing this year’s honorees. “From the classroom to Congress, to the IRS and even to the White House, these two are trusted and respected voices across the political spectrum. We are excited to honor their service and contributions to the tax world at our annual Tax Prom next month.”

Since 1941, the Tax Foundation has honored public figures who show an extraordinary dedication to advancing sound tax policy. Previous recipients of Tax Foundation awards have included: Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and George W. Bush, Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Max Baucus, Senator Orrin Hatch, and Representative Dave Camp.

Michael J. Graetz is the Columbia Alumni Professor of Tax Law and a leading expert on national and international tax law. He has written several books on federal domestic and international taxation, including a leading law school text.

Graetz joined the Columbia Law School's faculty in 2009 after holding faculty positions at Yale Law School for more than 25 years. Prior to his time at Yale, he was Professor of Law and Social Sciences at the California Institute of Technology; and professor of Law at the University of Southern California and the University of Virginia.

In addition to his teaching career, Graetz has held several positions in the federal government. He was assistant to the secretary and special counsel for the Department of the Treasury in 1992, and deputy assistant secretary for tax policy from 1990 to 1991. He also served previously on the commissioner's advisory group for the Internal Revenue Service and in the Treasury Department's office of tax legislative counsel.

Graetz has been a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellow and received an award from Esquire Magazine for courses and work in connection with the provision of shelter for the homeless. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. He was also awarded the Daniel M. Holland Medal by the National Tax Association for outstanding contributions to the study and practice of public finance.
Graetz earned his LL.B. from the University of Virginia and his B.B.A. from Emory University.

Mark J. Mazur is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy in the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Prior to returning to Treasury, Mazur was most recently the Robert C. Pozen Director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, where he led the organization since 2017. Mazur has served in the federal government for over 27 years in various positions. He was a policy economist at the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation from 1989-1993. He then joined the Clinton Administration where he served in a number of roles, including: senior economist at the President’s Council of Economic Advisers; senior director at the National Economic Council; chief economist and senior policy adviser to the Secretary of Energy, Director of the Policy Office at the U.S. Department of Energy, and Acting Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

In 2001, he became the Director of Research, Analysis, and Statistics at the Internal Revenue Service. Mark joined the Obama Administration in 2009 as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Analysis in Treasury’s Office of Tax Policy. In 2012 he was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, and he served in this role until early 2017. Before entering public service, Mazur was an assistant professor in Heinz College at Carnegie-Mellon University.

He has a bachelor’s degree in financial administration from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in economics and a PhD in business from Stanford University.

CLICK HERE to for a full list of past Tax Foundation Distinguished Service Award recipients.

Best,

Jesse A. Solis
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Tax Foundation