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Former IRS official Karen L. Hawkins to chair ABA Section of Taxation

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31, 2017 — Karen L. Hawkins of Yachats, Ore., has been selected to chair the American Bar Association's Section of Taxation, the nation's largest organization of tax lawyers. Hawkins will serve a one-year term, to be succeeded by Eric Solomon, of Washington, D.C., who will serve this year as chair-elect.

"It is no exaggeration to say that I am who, and where, I am today because of my 39-year engagement with the Section and its members. I am ready for the challenges to come and hope you will join me in keeping the Section of Taxation at the forefront of tax professionalism." -- Hawkins said.

Hawkins served as the director of the IRS Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), where she oversaw the standards of practice for tax professionals. Prior to government service, she was a partner in the San Francisco law firm of Taggart & Hawkins PC, where she specialized in civil and criminal tax controversy.

Hawkins has held a number of prior leadership positions with the section. Prior to serving as last year's chair-elect, she was selected as chair-elect in 2009, but resigned from the position in order to serve as director of OPR. She also served as vice chair of professional services (now continuing legal education) and as a member of the section's council. Hawkins also was former chair of the IRS Liaison Meetings Committee, chair of the Committee on Civil and Criminal Tax Penalty's Penalty Subcommittee, a member of the IRS Advisory Committee, and liaison to the Director of OPR.

During her year as chair, Hawkins will focus on enhancing the section's existing pro bono commitments to include tax assistance to the nation's growing elderly population and to providing support for the communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

The ABA [Section of Taxation](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/taxation) is the largest professional association of tax lawyers, with more than 17,000 members nationwide. Its goals include helping taxpayers better understand their rights and obligations under the tax laws and working to achieve a simplified tax system that is equitable and efficient.

For more information about the Section of Taxation, visit its website, <http://www.americanbar.org/groups/taxation>.

Go to www.abalegalfactcheck.com for the ABA's new feature that will cite case and statutory law and other legal precedents to distinguish legal fact from fiction.

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is one of the largest voluntary professional membership organizations in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law. View our [privacy statement](#) online. Follow the latest ABA news at www.americanbar.org/news and on Twitter [@ABANews](#).