



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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Grassley Announces Finance Committee Tax Staff Change

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, today announced a change of his committee tax staff. Diann Howland, pension policy advisor, is leaving the committee to join the American Benefits Council as vice president, retirement policy.

Howland has worked for Grassley on the Finance Committee since he became chairman in January 2001. Before that, she served as his retirement policy advisor when he was chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. She has other extensive experience in the Senate, and also in the House of Representatives, working on committees with jurisdiction over both the tax and labor aspects of employee benefits policy. She also served during the first Bush administration in the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Policy.

Succeeding Howland as pension and tax counsel is John O'Neill. O'Neill joins the committee from the law firm Davis & Harman LLP in Washington, D.C., where he spent several years counseling employers, financial institutions, and trade associations on retirement, health, and education tax policy and tax and Employee Retirement Income Security Act matters related to employer-sponsored retirement plans, health insurance plans and products, life insurance and annuity products, long-term care insurance, education savings vehicles, and employee benefit plans.

O'Neill received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., and is a graduate of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

"I wish Diann well in her new position," Grassley said. "She works hard, and she's dedicated her career to improving retirement policy and Americans' ability to have more secure retirement income. I look forward to working with John as he puts his experience to work toward the same goals."