



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAX DIVISION

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OPEN LETTER TO THE TAX DIVISION AND THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

With the new Honors Program hiring season upon us, I think it is an appropriate time for me to reiterate the Tax Division's unwavering commitment to fair hiring practices that are premised on seeking the best-qualified candidates, regardless of political affiliation or other discriminatory criteria (such as race, age, gender, etc.).

In the short time I have been at the Tax Division, I am constantly reminded of how important it is to tax administration for the Division to have talented career people with diverse viewpoints. This diversity helps ensure that all sides of an issue are examined thoroughly before a position is taken. I am strongly committed to maintaining this diversity in viewpoint by continuing the Tax Division's tradition of merit hiring.

As many of you know, the Department's Office of Inspector General and Office of Professional Responsibility recently issued a [report on allegations of politicized hiring](#) in the Department's honors and summer law intern programs. The report concluded that the alleged conduct did occur at certain levels of the Department. Significantly, the report also commended the Tax Division's political and career leadership for taking a stand against the politicizing of the hiring process. All Division employees can take pride that the Division consistently adhered to fair hiring principles and refused to engage in the practices described in the report.

As the Attorney General recently told Congress, "it is crucial that we pursue our cases based solely on what the law and facts require, and that we hire our career people without regard for improper political considerations. It is equally crucial that the American people have complete confidence in the propriety of what we do." I firmly believe that, here in the Tax Division, we embody these principles, both in our fair and consistent enforcement of the internal revenue laws and in our hiring of those who pursue this very important work on behalf of the American people.

I hope that all qualified applicants – those with superior academic credentials and writing ability, and who are interested in tax litigation and public service – will give serious consideration to applying to the Tax Division under either the Honors or Summer Law Intern Program.

NJH