



State of New Jersey

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Taxpayers Gain an Advocate

Christie Administration Creates Experienced Team To Simplify Tax Regulations and Assist Taxpayers

Taxpayers will now have an advocate in their corner to simplify New Jersey's tax regulations and help them navigate New Jersey's tax code. State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff announced today the creation of the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate in the Division of Taxation.

"More predictable treatment under tax law is vital to restoring New Jersey's image as a home for business growth and investment," Governor Christie said. "Now, with the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate, we can both bring in revenue and improve New Jersey's economic climate if we make it less difficult and stressful for taxpayers to navigate the tax system."

The Advocate will recommend changes in regulations to eliminate systemic problems that cause unnecessary expense and aggravation, as well as being assigned to help individuals and small businesses deal with the most difficult tax

dilemmas, Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff said. Sheri Silverstein, a dedicated tax professional with 24 years of experience in the Division of Taxation, will lead the team.

“The No. 1 mission of this experienced team is to resolve tax problems before they cause lasting economic harm,” Sidamon-Eristoff said. “Simplifying tax compliance is a proven way to increase revenue and fairness.”

Silverstein’s role won’t be limited to providing suggestions on how to improve the state’s laws and regulations, said Michael Bryan, head of the Division of Taxation. Bryan said he will assign Silverstein to directly help in cases where average people and small businesses have exhausted all other methods for resolving complex tax dilemmas.

“Taxpayers whose cases are handed to the advocate will get the benefit of the experience and attention of some of the most seasoned tax professionals in the Division,” Bryan said.

“When taxpayers reach out to us about lingering problems, we will listen,” Silverstein said. “We want to give every taxpayer a voice.”

Additional information about the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate can be found at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ota/otainfo.shtml