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FROM THE EDITOR NEW EDITORIAL BOARD

By Brian G. King

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Welcome readers to another issue of *TAXING TIMES*. This issue looks at a variety of topics including recent guidance on longevity products, tax implications under the Defense of Marriage Act, and lingering effects of 2009 required minimum distributions under section 401(a)(9). Hopefully, you find these topics timely and the articles addressing them interesting.

Balancing the fast moving world of insurance tax with our *TAXING TIMES* publication schedule is a constant challenge for the Taxation Section Council. We try to get the information to our members in as timely a manner as possible. To this end, we are willing to add supplemental issues of *TAXING TIMES*, webinars and blast e-mails to our regularly slated issues and activities in order to keep our membership informed. Coming up on the horizon, the Obama Administration's proposed budget for fiscal year 2011 includes several insurance related initiatives, discussed further in the ACLI Update Column in this issue. We will monitor these proposals along with other insurance tax activities and report back to our members.

Of course, the flagship of our communication efforts remains our newsletter. The Taxation Section is committed to making *TAXING TIMES* a quality publication and to date, we have had success in this area. In our efforts to continue to challenge ourselves to maintain our high publishing standards, we have recently restructured the *TAXING TIMES* editorial board. Specifically, the decision was made by the Taxation Section Council to increase the size of our editorial board while at the same time introduce term limits for editorial board members. Term limits will allow existing members to roll off after serving their term and new members to join the board. In addition, a larger board will offer a broader perspective to the editorial process.

The editorial board serves several roles for *TAXING TIMES*. They discuss the content of upcoming issues, focusing on current tax topics, and seeking a balance between company and product tax. In addition, the editorial board provides the first line of the peer review process, determining if articles are appropriate, timely, technically sound and well written. Finally, editorial board members play a role in soliciting authors to write articles for *TAXING TIMES*. The new modifications to our editorial board structure will give the board a fresher perspective and broader expertise in fulfilling these responsibilities.

For this issue of *TAXING TIMES*, the "old dream team" editorial board consisting of myself, Peter Winslow (Scribner, Hall & Thompson, LLP), Frederic Gelfond (Deloitte) and Bruce Schobel (NYLIC) were joined by our new members – Daniel Stringham (Prudential), Arthur Schneider (AEGON) and Kory Olsen (Pacific Life). The new expanded dream team worked extremely well together for this issue and we saw improvements in our editorial process as a result of this expanded knowledge base. I would like to thank Dan, Art and Kory for agreeing to come on board, and officially welcome them. I would also like to thank our entire editorial board for their commitment to *TAXING TIMES*. Without their efforts, this would not be the quality publication that it is today.

Enjoy the issue! ◀

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All of the articles that appear in *TAXING TIMES* are peer reviewed by our Editorial Board and Section Council members. These members represent a cross-functional team of professionals from the accounting, legal and actuarial disciplines. This peer-review process is a critical ingredient in maintaining and enhancing the quality and credibility of our section newsletter.

While this newsletter strives to provide accurate and authoritative information in the content of its articles, it does not constitute tax, legal or other advice from the publisher. It is recommended that professional services be retained for such advice. The publisher assumes no responsibility with assessing or advising the reader as to tax, legal or other consequences arising from the reader's particular situation.

Citations are required and found in our published articles, and follow standard protocol. ◀

—Brian G. King

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