

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,  
Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Enrollment Program Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service, (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility invites individuals and organizations to nominate candidates for membership on the Enrollment Program Advisory Committee. As of January 8, 2003, the newly created Office of Professional Responsibility replaced the former Office of the Director of Practice. The Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility exercises the authority of the former Director of Practice.

**DATES:** Submit nominations on or before September 15, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or fax nominations to: Internal Revenue Service; Office of the Director of Professional Responsibility; SE:OPR, Attn: Michael Hahn, 1111 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20224; fax number 202-694-1919.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Hahn, Enrollment Program Advisory Committee, at 202-694-1823.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Enrollment Program Advisory Committee ("EPAC"), which was formerly known as the "Special Enrollment Examination Advisory Committee," was established in 1999 under the terms of the Federal Advisory Committee Act ("FACA"), 5 U.S.C. App. The EPAC's charter expires January 16, 2005. It is expected that the EPAC will be renewed for another two-year period. Therefore, the Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility invites individuals and organizations to nominate candidates for membership.

Section 330 of 31 U.S.C. authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to require that representatives before the Department demonstrate their "competency to advise and assist persons in presenting their cases." Pursuant to that statute, the Secretary has promulgated the regulations governing practice before the IRS, which are found at 31 CFR part 10, and are separately published in pamphlet form

as Treasury Department Circular No. 230 (to order call 1-800-829-3676).

The regulations provide that enrolled agents are among the classes of individuals eligible to practice before the IRS. The Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility is also authorized to pass upon applications for enrollment and to grant enrollment to applicants who demonstrate special competence in tax matters by written examination administered by the IRS. This written examination is the Special Enrollment Examination ("SEE"). More information concerning the SEE may be found on the Office of Professional Responsibility Web page: (1) Go to IRS Digital Daily, <http://www.irs.gov>; (2) click Tax Professional; and (3) click Enrolled Agents.

The objective of the EPAC is to advise, with respect to annual examinations testing the special competence in Federal tax matters of individuals who intend to apply for status as "enrolled agents," eligible to practice before the IRS. In meeting this objective, non-Federal members of the EPAC shall represent the various segments of the tax practitioner community. The EPAC's advisory functions will include, but will not necessarily be limited to: (1) Identifying Federal tax services sought by taxpayers, identifying the knowledge that would permit enrolled agents to provide such services, and developing examination topics and questions that will test for such knowledge; (2) recommending completed examinations for use in the SEE Program; and (3) reviewing the work product of any organization authorized by contract or otherwise to write, compile, administer and grade the SEE, report the scores to SEE candidates, and provide advice thereon to the Director.

FACA mandates that the membership of the Committee be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view presented and the functions to be performed. To that end, the Office of Professional Responsibility will consider nominations of all individuals who: (1) Are qualified to represent the views of a segment of the tax practitioner community; (2) possess professional or academic accomplishments sufficient to allow contributions to the EPAC's advisory functions; (3) are of good character and good reputation; and (4) are in compliance with the Federal tax laws. Current or former status as an enrolled agent is not a requirement for EPAC membership.

Individuals may nominate themselves; an individual may nominate other individuals; or professional associations or other

organizations may nominate individuals. A nomination may be in any format, but it must include: (1) A statement of which segment of the tax practitioner community the nominee is qualified to represent; (2) a description of the nominee's professional accomplishments, academic accomplishments, or both; and (3) a statement that the nominee is willing to accept an appointment to the EPAC. Nominations may include copies of articles from professional journals or other relevant publications, but such items cannot be returned.

Appointment to the Committee will be for a two-year term, providing that a member continues to fulfill his or her Committee responsibilities. The Committee is expected to meet up to four times a year. Members should be prepared to devote from 125 to 175 hours per year, including meetings, to the Committee's work. Members will be reimbursed, in accordance with Government regulations, for expenses (transportation, meals, and lodging) incurred in connection with Committee meetings.

If the SEE is to provide objective and fair indicia of special competence in Federal taxation, the SEE's specific topics and questions must not become publicly available prior to administration of the examination. Consequently, sessions of EPAC meetings dealing with specific SEE topics and questions will be closed to public participation. With respect to such closed sessions, EPAC members must be prepared to maintain the confidentiality of their deliberations and advice.

Dated: August 1, 2003.

**Brien T. Downing,**  
Director, Office of Professional Responsibility.  
[FR Doc. 03-20291 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Enrollment Program Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service, (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility gives notice of the renewal of the Enrollment Program Advisory Committee. As of January 8, 2003, the newly created Office of Professional Responsibility replaced the former Office of the Director of Practice. The Director of the

Office of Professional Responsibility exercises the authority of the former Director of Practice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Hahn, Enrollment Program Advisory Committee, 202-694-1823.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with 41 CFR 101-6.1015(a)(1), the Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility hereby gives notice of the renewal of the Enrollment Program Advisory Committee ("EPAC"), which was formerly known as the "Special Enrollment Examination Advisory Committee." The EPAC has been renewed under the authority of section 14(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App.

Section 330 of 31 U.S.C. authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to require that representatives before the Department demonstrate their "competency to advise and assist persons in presenting their cases." Pursuant to that statute, the Secretary has promulgated the regulations governing practice before the IRS, which are found at 31 CFR part 10, and are separately published in pamphlet form as Treasury Department Circular No. 230 (to order call 1-800-829-3676).

The regulations provide that enrolled agents are among the classes of individuals eligible to practice before the IRS. The Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility is also authorized to pass upon applications for enrollment and to grant enrollment to applicants who demonstrate special competence in tax matters by written examination administered by the IRS. This written examination is the Special Enrollment Examination (SEE).

The primary purpose of the Committee is to advise the Office of Professional Responsibility on the SEE. The Committee's advisory functions will include, but will not necessarily be limited to: (1) Identifying Federal tax services sought by taxpayers, identifying the knowledge that would permit enrolled agents to provide such services, and developing examination topics and questions that will test for such knowledge; (2) recommending completed examinations for use—in the SEE Program; and (3) reviewing the work product of any organization authorized by contract or otherwise to write, compile, administer and grade the SEE, report the scores to SEE candidates, and provide advice thereon to the Director.

Dated: August 1, 2003.

**Brien T. Downing,**

*Director, Office of Professional Responsibility.*

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**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Bureau of the Public Debt

#### Proposed Collection: Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently the Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Authorization for purchase and request for change of United States Savings Bonds.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before October 7, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, or *Vicki.Thorpe@bpd.treas.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Authorization For Purchase And Request For Change United States Savings Bonds.

*OMB Number:* 1535-0111.

*Form Numbers:* SB 2362, 2378, and 2383.

*Abstract:* The information is requested to support a request by employees to authorize employers to allot funds from their pay for the purchase of savings bonds.

*Current Actions:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,300,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 1 minute.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 21,667.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: August 4, 2003.

**Vicki S. Thorpe,**

*Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.*

[FR Doc. 03-20233 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-39-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Draft National Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Plan

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document concerns VA's health care planning process known as CARES, or Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services. The CARES process was designed to enable the veterans health care system to more effectively use its resources to deliver more care, to more veterans, in places where veterans need it most. We are providing interested persons the opportunity to review and submit written comments to the independent CARES Commission concerning the draft National CARES Plan of the Under Secretary for Health.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted until further notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments can be mailed to Richard E. Larson, Executive Director, CARES Commission, 00CARES, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20480; or faxed to (202) 501-2196; or e-mail to <http://www.carescommission.va.gov>. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to the "Notice; Draft National Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Plan."