



# Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

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## Division of Professional Regulation

**BRUCE RAUNER**  
Governor

**BRYAN A. SCHNEIDER**  
Secretary

**JAY STEWART**  
Director

### Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation Division of Professional Regulation Tax Return Preparation Task Force

#### Open Minutes

Date: June 25, 2015

Call to Order: 11:05 am – Jay Stewart, Chairperson

Location: IDFPR – Division of Professional Regulation  
100 W Randolph, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Room 9-171B&C  
Chicago, IL 60601

Board Members Present: Jay Stewart, Chairperson; Stephen W. DeFilippis, Member; Geoffrey Harlow, Member; Andrew Jennison, Member; Representative Natalie Manley, Member; Senator John Mulroe, Member; Michael R. Pieczonka, Member; Michael T. Specha, Member

Board Member(s) Absent: N/A

Staff Members Present: Martha Reggi, Associate General Counsel; Stephanie Rosiensi, Law Clerk

Guests: Vijay Raghavan, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Consumer Fraud Bureau; Matthew Frost, City of Chicago, Business Affairs and Consumer Protection; Paul Harris, Center for Economic Progress; Dylan Bellisle, Center for Economic Progress; Daniel Setter, Independent Accountants Association of Illinois;  
Via phone: Chi Chi Wu, National Consumer Law Center; Douglas Blackstone, Executive Director, Maryland Board of Individual Tax Preparers

Topic	Discussion	Action
Roll Call	Jay Stewart, present Stephen W. DeFilippis, present Geoffrey Harlow, present Andrew Jennison, present Representative Natalie Manley, present Senator John Mulroe, present Michael R. Pieczonka, present Michael T. Specha, present	
Introductions	Each Task Force member, Department staff, and guest introduced themselves.	
Approval of February 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes		A motion was made by Specha / seconded by Jennison to approve the February 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
Analysis of Task Force Action	<p>Chairperson Stewart reviewed the meetings that have taken place to date and reviewed the agenda.</p> <p><u>Guest Matthew Frost, City of Chicago, Business Affairs and Consumer Protection</u> Matthew Frost discussed the business license and disclosure requirements for tax preparers in the City of Chicago. He indicated that there are currently 400 tax preparation businesses operating in Chicago, which includes licensed and unlicensed entities. He reviewed the City's complaint and investigation processes and answered Task Force questions about these processes.</p> <p><u>Guest Vijay Raghavan, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Consumer Fraud Bureau</u> Vijay Raghavan discussed the Attorney General's investigations and litigation relating to tax compliance problems. He summarized the Consumer Fraud Act generally and as it relates to anticipation loan reform. Mr. Raghavan reviewed the Mo' Money tax scheme of 2010 to 2011. He also reviewed tax preparer compliance issues and addressed Task Force questions.</p> <p>Pieczonka reviewed his own experience with tax preparer problems and fraud.</p> <p>Paul Harrison from the Center for Economic</p>	

	<p>Progress addressed the issue of identity theft as it relates to tax preparation.</p> <p><u>Guest Chi Chi Wu, National Consumer Law Center</u>  Chi Chi Wu discussed the 2008 mystery shopper program that reviewed potential problems in the tax preparation industry. She discussed the National Consumer Law Center’s model act and application across states. She answered inquiries from Task Force members relating to the necessity of regulation in this area.</p>	
Analysis of Future Task Force Action	<p>The Task Force reviewed potential future guests. The Task Force plans to meet in July and August. Stewart reviewed the Task Force’s December 1, 2015 report deadline.</p>	
Adjournment		<p>There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by DeFilippis / seconded by Pieczonka to adjourn at 12:40 pm. Motion passed unanimously.</p>