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Dear Prospective Taxation Section Member:

If your practice includes matters relating to tax issues, you should be a member of the Taxation Section. We are the state's primary resource for tax practitioners who want to communicate and network with each other and educate the public, legislators and administrators on Michigan tax issues.

The Section sponsors six committees whose members practice in the areas of Business Entities, Employee Benefits, Estates and Trusts, Practice and Procedure, State and Local, and International Tax. The committees hold periodic educational sessions and roundtable meetings on topics of practical interest to their members. These meetings are generally free. To join a committee after becoming a member of the Section, please email our Program Facilitator, Erin Sexton at Erin@fw-pc.com. Membership also includes a subscription to our journal, the *Michigan Tax Lawyer*, published three times a year and carried by LexisNexis.com, and the opportunity to have appropriate articles published in the journal. The Section also sponsors several presentations for the ICLE *After Hours Tax Law Series*.

The Section's Annual Tax Conference, now in its 25th year, provides a full day of updates on tax law changes, as well as an opportunity to explore topics with practitioners in your specific area of practice. The Section sponsors one or more annual luncheons with a United States Tax Court Judge, provides grants to pro bono tax programs, and provides opportunities for law students interested in tax to attend meetings at greatly reduced fees.

Our website offers a glimpse into Taxation Section activities. Use it to obtain information about upcoming Committee meetings and other Section events and follow public policy positions adopted by the Tax Council. The website also links to our online directory of IRS and Michigan Treasury tax personnel, updated annually. You and the general public can identify Taxation Section members by using the State Bar of Michigan member directory page, which allows you to search for members of the Taxation Section and narrow your search by city or county. The Section also offers a listserv. You may find these useful in locating someone with whom to discuss a particular tax problem.

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This year we also will be expanding initiatives to assist new lawyers in developing their skills in this complex and shifting area of law, including opportunities for *pro bono* representation with appropriate assistance from experienced practitioners and other opportunities for forming mentoring relationships.

Whether you are a seasoned tax practitioner or a new lawyer trying to find your footing in this ever-changing area of law, I hope you will join us!

Very truly yours,

Warren J. Widmayer
Chairperson, Taxation Section

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