

#### Contact

##### Houston

1200 Smith Street, Suite 1400  
Houston, Texas 77002-4310  
Tel: 713.658.1818  
Fax: 713.658.2553

##### Atlanta

191 Peachtree Street, N.E.,  
Forty-Sixth Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Tel: 404.659.1410  
Fax: 404.659.1852

##### Philadelphia

50 South 16th Street, Suite  
1700  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Tel: 610.772.2300  
Fax: 610.772.2305

##### San Antonio

112 East Pecan Street, Suite  
1450  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Tel: 210.253.8383  
Fax: 210.253.8384

## Leo Unzeitig Addresses Proposed Regulations Concerning the Office of Appeals and Offers Solutions

**Leo Unzeitig, Shareholder in Chamberlain Hrdlicka's Tax Controversy Practice in San Antonio Submits Comment Letter to the Internal Revenue Service regarding Proposed Regulations Concerning the IRS Independent Office of Appeals and its Ability to Consider**

December 6, 2023

In a recent letter to the IRS and Treasury, Leo Unzeitig, tax controversy shareholder in Chamberlain Hrdlicka's San Antonio office addresses proposed regulations dealing with the IRS Office of Appeals. Specifically, Unzeitig addresses a provision proposing to remove Appeals' ability to consider litigation hazards raised by violations of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Unzeitig emphasizes the consequences of the proposed regulations by observing that "If [they] were in effect, they would prevent my clients and millions of other taxpayers from raising legitimate legal defenses provided by the Administrative Procedure Act. I believe that is unacceptable, a poor use of taxpayer and government resources, and inconsistent with the principles for having an independent administrative forum to resolve cases efficiently."

Speaking to the proposed regulations, Unzeitig also addresses the justifications raised by Treasury in support of the proposed regulations and offers reasoned disagreement.

He also suggests a solution. "My proposed solution is simple: allow Appeals to consider *all* litigation hazards, not just *some* litigation hazards. Existing Treas. Reg. 601.106(f)(2) already assumes this when it says 'Appeals will ordinarily give serious consideration to an offer to settle a tax controversy on a basis which fairly reflects the relative merits of the opposing views in light of the hazards which would exist if the case were litigated.'"

Unzeitig concludes, "Hundreds, if not thousands, of taxpayers have cases where they have made (or are entitled to make) APA challenges. The government has hazards in litigating those cases. Those hazards, just as all other legal hazards, should be recognized and considered as part of a settlement analysis. If not, Appeals fails in its important mission to resolve taxpayer disputes in an impartial and low-cost forum."