

9-30-2009

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Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Chapman Law School Launches Appellate Tax Advocacy Clinic" (2009). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. 71.

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Chapman Law School Launches Appellate Tax Advocacy Clinic

ORANGE, Calif., September 29, 2009 – Chapman University School of Law and the non-profit Center for the Fair Administration of Tax (“CFAT”) have announced their jointly sponsored Appellate Tax Advocacy Clinic. It is the first such clinical program in the nation.

Under the supervision of experienced attorney-professors, senior law students research and write amicus curie briefs for submission to appellate courts and other tribunals that consider tax-related cases. Depending on the tribunal and the nature of the case, students may also have the opportunity to participate in oral arguments. The clinic started in early 2009, and we have already filed two briefs.

“Appeals cases with tax ramifications can occur before many courts and tribunals that do not necessarily specialize in tax matters,” explains A. Lavar Taylor, Adjunct Professor and Director of CFAT. “Even courts and tribunals with experience in handling tax cases can benefit from amicus briefs which offer a perspective that is not identical to the perspectives offered by either litigant. Our program seeks to promote fairness in the administration of the tax laws to taxpayers as whole.”

Interested parties involved in appellate tax litigation may contact Chapman or CFAT to determine if their case involves sufficiently unique issues to qualify for the clinic’s services. CFAT is a non-partisan, non-profit organization.

“The Appellate Tax Advocacy Clinic is the third tax law clinic to operate at Chapman and builds on our existing strengths,” says Frank J. Doti, Director of the Chapman’s Tax Law Program. “Clearly, there is an historical culture of tax law at Chapman.”

If you would like to learn more about the Appellate Tax Law Clinic at Chapman or the Center for the Fair Administration of Tax, contact Betty Reich at (714) 628-2535.