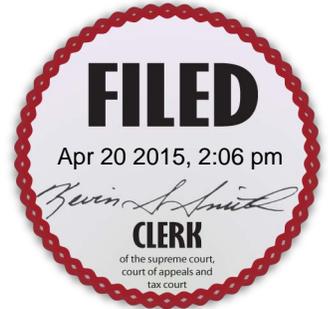


In the  
Indiana Supreme Court

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREATION OF ) Supreme Court No.  
AD HOC ADVISORY TAX COURT ) 94S00-1504-MS-209  
TASK FORCE )



ORDER CREATING AD HOC ADVISORY TASK FORCE TO  
STUDY RESOURCES AND CASELOAD OF INDIANA TAX COURT

The Indiana General Assembly created the Indiana Tax Court, effective July 1, 1986, and vested it with jurisdiction over cases arising under the tax laws of Indiana. The Tax Court has one judge and is authorized to use senior judges.

At the time of the Tax Court's creation, this Court adopted a set of rules to govern the procedure and practice in the Tax Court. With the collaboration of the Tax Law Section of the Indiana State Bar Association, the Tax Court conducted an extensive review of the initial Tax Court Rules. After review and input by the Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Tax Court recommended a set of Tax Court Rule amendments, which this Court adopted by order dated October 30, 2014, becoming effective January 1, 2015.

In addition, it has been nearly thirty years since the Tax Court's creation. Reviewing caseload information filed by the Tax Court with the Division of State Court Administration and published in the annual Judicial Service Reports indicates significant differences over time in the number of cases filed in and disposed of by that court. We find a comprehensive review of the caseload and resources available to the Tax Court is warranted and that a special task force should collaborate with the Indiana Tax Court to review the court's resources, caseload, performance and operations.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that an *Ad Hoc Tax Court Advisory Task Force* (“Task Force”) is hereby created and directed to examine the caseload, resources, staffing, performance and operations of the Indiana Tax Court, including to review and analyze its methods and procedures for case disposition. We suggest the Task Force consider models including, but not limited to, those established by the Conference of Chief Justices, Conference of State Court Administrators, and National Center for State Courts as part of the Trial Court Performance Measures System, CourTools, and the Appellate Court Performance Measures.

The following persons are appointed to the Task Force:

1. Judge James S. Kirsch, Indiana Court of Appeals
2. Judge Robert R. Altice, Marion Superior Court
3. Mr. David A. Suess, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
4. Mr. Gary Secrest, Office of the Indiana Attorney General
5. Mr. Matt Light, Office of the Indiana Attorney General
6. Mr. Asheesh Agarwal, Indiana Department of Revenue
7. Ms. Kathryn A. Lodato, Eli Lilly and Company

Judge Kirsch shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force.

In addition to the foregoing members, Judge Martha B. Wentworth and Sr. Judge Thomas G. Fisher of the Indiana Tax Court will serve as *ex officio* liaisons from the Tax Court to the Committee and attend meetings by invitation of the Chair.

The Chief Justice of Indiana will appoint staff to assist the Task Force in its work, and the Executive Directors of the Supreme Court Division of State Court Administration and the Indiana Judicial Center are directed to appoint staff to provide further support.

The Task Force is directed to provide a written report to this Court not later than March 1, 2016. The report shall include the Task Force's findings and any recommendations.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.



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Loretta H. Rush  
Chief Justice of Indiana

All Justices concur.