



Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents

Affiliate of the National Association of Enrolled Agents

www.aztaxpros.org • (866) AZTAXPR(OS)

(866) 298-2977

Editor,

With tax season now underway, you may be looking for information and sources to do stories about income taxes. Please make the Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents your first call for knowledgeable interviews and thorough background.

Perhaps you are not familiar with Enrolled Agents. Enrolled Agents (EA's) are the only nationally licensed tax professionals, authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS (and state agencies) in all 50 states. The enclosed background sheet on Enrolled Agents explains more.

This media kit is designed to help you prepare accurate and timely news stories. It includes:

- Contact information for news media
- Business card for handy phone number and website address
- Background information on Enrolled Agents and the Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents

To assist you better this tax season, the Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents offers some new helps:

- A new webpage specifically for news media is available at **www.aztaxpros.org/media**
- The society has a new tollfree number -- **(866) AZTAXPROS** (866-298-2977).
- The society's state president (Tucson), vice president (Phoenix) and regional chapter presidents are available to you on the record, so you have a local source wherever you are.
- Local members for public relations are available in Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott to help you with your stories.

With the May, 2003, tax law now taking effect, there are numerous new tax provisions affecting nearly every Arizonan's wallet. We are ready to help you provide your readers or viewers concise and accurate information about taxes during the tax season and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Forrest Davis".

C. Forrest Davis, EA
Chair, Public Relations Committee

Enrolled Agents are the only Tax Professionals licensed by the United States Department of Treasury



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Contacts for news media

Tucson

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Phoenix

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Prescott

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Website: <http://www.aztaxpros.org/media.htm>

- Contacts for news media
- Quick info & links to other tax resources
- Archive of news releases

Home: <http://www.aztaxpros.org/>

- Information for taxpayers
- Free brochure downloads
- AzSEA member center



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***Background:* Enrolled Agents**

An Enrolled Agent (EA) is an individual who has demonstrated technical competence in the field of taxation and can represent taxpayers before all administrative levels of the Internal Revenue Service. Only EAs, attorneys and CPAs may represent taxpayers before the IRS.

EAs advise, represent and prepare tax returns for individuals, partnerships, corporations, estates, trusts and any entities with tax-reporting requirements. EAs prepare millions of tax returns in a typical year. Arizona, unlike some other states, does not regulate or license tax preparers, so EAs' expertise in the continually changing field of tax law enables them to effectively serve taxpayers.

Unlike attorneys and certified public accountants, who may or may not choose to specialize in taxes, all Enrolled Agents specialize in matters of taxation. Only EAs are required to demonstrate to the Internal Revenue Service their competence in taxation to the federal government. (CPAs and attorneys are licensed by the state.)

A tax professional earns the Enrolled Agent designation in one of two ways:

1. An individual must pass a difficult two-day examination administered by the IRS which covers taxation of individuals, corporations, partnerships, estates and trusts, procedures and ethics. Next, the successful candidates are subjected to a rigorous background check conducted by the Internal Revenue Service; or
2. An individual may become an EA based on employment at the Internal Revenue Service for a minimum of five years in a job where he/she regularly applied and interpreted the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations.

In addition to the stringent testing and application process, EAs are required to complete 24 hours of continuing professional education each year to maintain their status. Because of the difficulty in becoming an EA and keeping up the required credentials, there are fewer than 33,000 Enrolled Agents in the United States.

The Enrolled Agent profession dates back to 1884 when, after questionable claims had been presented for Civil War losses, Congress acted to regulate persons who represented citizens in their dealings with the Treasury Department.



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Background: Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents

The Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents (AzSEA) is the professional association of Enrolled Agents throughout Arizona. The association is affiliated with the National Association of Enrolled Agents.

Only members of the National Association of Enrolled Agents may be members of the Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents. Approximately 900 Enrolled Agents are in Arizona, and nearly 300 are members of the Arizona Society of Enrolled Agents.

AzSEA promotes Enrolled Agents as the "tax professionals of choice." The society builds public awareness among taxpayers and serves as a liason for the tax practitioner community to tax agencies. The society also provides continuing professional education for Enrolled Agents.

AzSEA has regional chapters throughout the state so members can network and attend continuing education locally. There are five chapters:

- Central Arizona
- High Country (Flagstaff region)
- Northwest Valley (northwest metro Phoenix)
- Northern Arizona (Prescott region)
- Southern Arizona