



MULTISTATE TAX COMMISSION

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Litigation Committee Meeting Denver, Colorado July 29, 2024**

#### **Joe Garrett, Managing Director – Multistate Tax Deloitte Tax LLP**

Joe joined Deloitte Tax LLP in 2019 as a Managing Director in the Multistate Tax Practice. Prior to joining Deloitte, Joe served as Deputy Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Revenue for 17 years. He began his state tax career in public accounting as a state and local tax manager in Atlanta. Joe is well known and respected in the state tax community for his strong tax technical skills which he demonstrated regularly by working with other states' tax officials on tax policy matters and subjects such as Wayfair and the state impacts of federal tax reform.

Joe is the 2015 recipient of the Paull Mines Award, the Multistate Tax Commission's award for significant contributions to state tax jurisprudence. He was also the State Tax Notes Notable Tax Administrator of 2016 and featured in that publication's "Spotlight" article (September of 2015). At the Alabama Department of Revenue, Joe led the state's policy work addressing the state impact of federal tax reform and post-Wayfair implementation issues. Joe also served as a leader of the Multistate Tax Commission's policy-making work on these and other significant state tax developments. His ability to connect with various states on tax technical or procedural issues provides a substantial benefit to clients.

Joe holds a BS in finance from Auburn University, a JD from The University of Alabama School of Law, and an LLM in taxation from University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Phil Horwitz, State and Local Tax Director**  
**Moss Adams LLP**

Phil has been working in state and local tax since 1994. He assists clients with all aspects of state and local tax compliance, focusing on tax controversy matters.

Phil spent a combined 20 years working for the Colorado Department of Revenue, where he designed and implemented one of the nation's first state tax voluntary disclosure programs. His career at the Colorado Department of Revenue also included managing the field audit policy function and serving as director of the Office of Tax Policy Analysis, which involved centralizing the department's policy functions. Phil's past experience also includes working in the state and local tax practice of a Big Four firm and serving as Colorado's representative on the Multistate Tax Commission.

Phil has a BA in economics and English literature from the University of Colorado, a JD from the University of Texas at Austin, and an LLM in public international law from the University of London.

**Leah Robinson, State and Local Tax Partner**  
**Mayer Brown LLP**

Leah Robinson (formerly Leah Samit) leads Mayer Brown's State & Local Tax group. A partner in the firm's New York office, she advises public and private business entities on state and local tax planning, controversy and litigation. Leah provides national and state tax strategy and audit assistance for clients on a full range of tax matters, including nexus, combination and apportionment, and net operating loss issues.

In 2019, Leah was named to Law360's inaugural list of "Influential Women in Tax Law," which spotlights attorneys who have provided outstanding service to their clients and the public, while changing the dynamics at their workplace. She is ranked by Chambers USA 2021-2023 in Band 2 for New York State and Local Tax.

Leah has argued tax cases at the trial court, appellate court, and state supreme court levels. Previously, as a tax lawyer with the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in New York City, she was part of the strategic trial team handling one of the largest section 482 transfer pricing controversies in history.

Leah has a JD from Rutgers Law School and an LLM in Taxation from New York University School of Law.

**Judy Vorndran, Partner**  
**TaxOps**

[Judy Vorndran](#), J.D., CPA, MSBA, leads a team of veteran state and local tax (SALT) professionals at TaxOps in providing practical tax answers to businesses and governments. She is attentive to legislative, judicial, and regulatory tax changes as she assesses the impact of change on her clients' tax strategy. For 25+ years, she has worked with and through vendor partnerships and government alliances to drive positive tax outcomes for businesses. Judy is a public policy advocate and governor-appointed member of Colorado's Sales and Use Task Force, where she collaborates with legislators and stakeholders in simplifying the state's complex sales tax system. Former Big Four, with 14 years combined at Deloitte and PwC, Judy is also a nationally recognized thought leader and award-winning instructor, including the 2023 Income Tax Instructor of the Year for the Institute for Tax Professionals. She is featured on the SALTovation show, a podcast profiling the leading voices in state and local tax. Listen in to the [SALTovation Show](#) on your favorite channel and reach out to Judy at [jvorndran@taxops.com](mailto:jvorndran@taxops.com).

**Steve Young, Partner**  
**Holland & Hart LLP**

Steve is a state and local tax attorney who provides strategic counsel to clients on state and local tax matters. He litigates state and local sales, property, income, severance, unclaimed property, and other state and local tax cases before administrative tribunals, local boards of equalization, and courts throughout the Rocky Mountain region. He lobbies state tax and local issues before the Utah Legislature, Utah State Tax Commission, and local governments. Steve consults with clients nationwide and represents large household-name clients as well as small businesses and individuals.

Steve was voted by his colleagues to be a Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel. He is Chair of the State and Local Tax Committee of the Tax Section of the American Bar Association, and Past Chair of the Tax Section of the Utah State Bar. He routinely speaks and publishes nationwide on state and local tax issues,

and sits on the Board of Editors of the ABA Property Tax Deskbook and the Journal of Multistate Taxation.

Steve has a BA, JD, and MBA from the University of Utah, and serves as Practice Group Leader for the firm's Tax and Benefits practice group.