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The Internal Revenue Service Office of Chief Counsel hosted its first National Virtual Settlement Month in March 2021. The results are impressive.

Settlement Days events are coordinated efforts to resolve cases in the United States Tax Court by providing taxpayers who are not represented by counsel the opportunity to receive free tax advice from Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs), American Bar Association (ABA) volunteer attorneys and other pro bono organizations.

“The March Settlement Days campaign yielded great results with well over half of participating taxpayers settling their cases on a basis agreeable to them without having to represent themselves in Tax Court,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig.

“These strong results could not be achieved without the dedication and support of

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LITC representatives and ABA volunteer attorneys provided free legal advice, assisting taxpayers outside their regular service areas as needed. At many events, taxpayers were also able to discuss payment options with IRS Collection employees. Taxpayers were also able to consult Taxpayer Advocate Service employees about unrelated tax matters not before the Tax Court.

“Unrepresented taxpayers with cases in Tax Court should strongly consider seeking assistance at a settlement day event when given the chance. It provides taxpayers a fair way to resolve their cases on a basis they agree with rather than taking their chances in court,” Rettig noted.

Virtual Settlement Days events were first announced in May 2020 to continue the benefits of Settlement Days during the pandemic. ([IR-2020-87](#)) Before March 2021, more than 260 taxpayers resolved their Tax Court cases during a Virtual Settlement Days event, avoiding the need for over 260 trials.

The Office of Chief Counsel plans to continue Virtual Settlement Days events together with face-to-face options when circumstances permit. In the meantime, taxpayers with cases before the Tax Court are encouraged to contact the assigned Chief Counsel attorney or paralegal to inquire about participating in a Virtual Settlement Days event. It is possible they can achieve same-day resolution of their case on a basis they agree with.

Benefits

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