

March 16, 2020

Mr. Gale Garriott  
Executive Director  
Federation of Tax Administrators  
444 North Capitol St NW # 348  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Garriott:

It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Karey Barton for the Federation of Tax Administrators' Harley T. Duncan Award for Leadership and Service.

Since 1985, Karey has been intimately involved in almost every aspect of Texas taxation, working in both the public and private spheres and garnering a well-earned reputation among legislators, practitioners and staff members for his knowledge and professionalism. Today, he's the Texas Comptroller's associate deputy for Tax, with full responsibility for more than \$50 billion in annual tax collections that support the nation's second most-populous state.

Karey began his career at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in 1985 and served the agency for almost 15 years, rising to senior positions including assistant chief revenue estimator, manager of Tax Policy and director of Tax Policy.

In 2000, Karey left the agency and entered the private sector, providing tax consulting services and legislative, regulatory and policy analysis to all types of businesses. In late 2005, Karey was tapped to serve as tax director for the Texas Tax Reform Commission, which worked through May 2006 to develop recommendations to modernize the state's tax structure while ensuring property tax relief and adequate funding for public schools, perennial issues in our state. Subsequent legislation adopted most of the commission's recommendations, most importantly the replacement of the state's franchise tax, its primary business tax, with one based on the margin between gross receipts and either personnel costs or the cost of goods sold.

In 2006, he joined Ryan, a national tax consulting firm, ultimately becoming a director and principal. Karey served in this role for seven years and then opened his own practice in January 2013.

In 2015, I was fortunate enough to persuade Karey to rejoin the Comptroller's office as a key member of our executive team. As associate deputy comptroller for Tax, Karey is





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responsible for tax policy, taxpayer assistance, enforcement, audit, criminal investigations, administrative hearings and tax litigation as well as our revenue processing functions.

Karey's work in our administration has been outstanding. He's created processes to improve communication between our tax divisions, achieving significant efficiencies and better consistency. He has established specialized audit teams, including experienced auditors, Tax Policy staff and hearings attorneys, for specific industries including telecommunications and oil and gas production. Karey also took the lead in ensuring earlier involvement by our Audit and Tax Hearing and Litigation specialists in tax policy development and rulemaking.

Under Karey's leadership, we have exceeded legislative benchmarks for both number of audits performed and amount of audit dollars recovered by about 10 percent in the last two fiscal years, while also reducing our inventory of contested cases from about 2,700 in fiscal 2016 to 1,800 in fiscal 2019.

Karey also has been a frequent speaker on state and local tax issues, presenting at the Institute for Professionals in Taxation, the Council on State Taxation, the Texas Society of CPAs and multiple Western States regional FTA conferences.

His ability and commitment are major assets to the Texas Comptroller's office and to the industries and taxpayers of our state. He is absolutely essential to our operations and I am proud and grateful to know him. I can think of no other person in Texas state government who better deserves this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Glenn Hegar", is written over the signature line.

Glenn Hegar