



MULTISTATE TAX COMMISSION

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Litigation Committee

Austin, Texas

July 24, 2022

Jenny Burleson, Director

Tax Policy Division, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Jenny Burleson has been the director of the Tax Policy Division at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts since Nov. 2021. She received her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University and her law degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. She began her legal career at a small litigation firm in Austin, Texas. She started with the Comptroller's office in 2011 in the Administrative Hearings section. She worked briefly in the Contracts section before becoming an analyst in Tax Policy. She left the agency in 2018 to be an administrative law judge at the State Office of Administrative Hearings, hearing tax cases. She loved that side of the process but missed the action and the ability to work with all the interested parties to develop the policy, and was lucky enough to be able to return to the agency as Senior Counsel for Audit before moving to her current position. She lives in Austin with her high school sweetheart husband and a five year old son.

Matthew Jones, Senior Counsel for Audit

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Matt is in his second stint with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. He served as a Tax Administrative Law Judge for four years before returning to the Comptroller's office in 2022. Prior to being an ALJ, he was a litigation attorney for the Comptroller and an Assistant Attorney General. As an Assistant Attorney General, Matt litigated tax cases in state district and appellate courts. He also moonlights as a college football referee. Matt earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas, graduated with a law degree from the University of Michigan, and received an LLM. in taxation from SMU.

**Victor John Simonds, Senior Counsel for Tax Controversies
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**

Victor received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and graduated from South Texas College of Law Houston. After representing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for two years, Victor joined the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts as an Assistant General Counsel. In 2001, he became a certified mediator, and in 2006 he was certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in administrative law. In 2007, Victor accepted a position as an administrative law judge at the Texas State Office of Administrative Hearings. While at SOAH, he was twice promoted and eventually served as the Deputy Chief ALJ for Hearings. In 2021, he returned to the Texas Comptroller's office to help establish processes and procedures related to then newly enacted legislation that allowed certain taxpayers to bypass the contested-case hearing process and take disputes directly to district court. As the agency's designated representative for the hearing-bypass process, Victor reviews the pleadings and evidence submitted by taxpayers and can require the taxpayer to participate in a conference to clarify and try to resolve the disputed fact and legal issues.