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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

STANLEY "SKIP" PRUSS
DIRECTOR

October 19, 2009

Dear Tax Tribunal Practitioner,

We are pleased to announce that the amendments to the Tribunal's Rules of Practice and Procedure have been adopted and are effective as of today, October 19, 2009. Of particular note are amendments relating to:

- The fee structure for both Entire Tribunal and Small Claims appeals. In recognition of the increased fees for motions for immediate consideration and motions for summary disposition, the Tribunal has established new procedures to expedite processing and consideration of these motions.
- Filing fees for motions for substitution of authorized representatives and motions to withdraw a case, which have been eliminated.
- Service of property tax appeal petitions on the State Treasurer.
- The deadline for filing an answer to a motion, which has increased from 14 to 21 days. However, an answer to a motion for immediate consideration is still governed by Tribunal Notice 2008-3 and the Tribunal will "minimally" wait seven days after service of the motion before issuing an order.
- The payment of a single filing fee for all motions contained in a single pleading. That fee is the largest filing fee that would have been required if the motions were filed separately.
- Counsel conferences and counsel conference summaries. Both parties are now responsible for insuring that the conference is held and the summary submitted.
- The deadline for conducting a counsel conference, which increased from 77 to 126 days after the filing of the initial petition. Also, the deadline for filing a counsel conference summary was increased from 14 to 21 days after the date of the conference.
- Requests for production of documents, which are now permitted without first having to file a motion to compel production.
- The deadline for filing and exchange of documentary evidence in a Small Claims proceeding, which has increased from 14 to 21 days in advance of a scheduled Small Claims hearing.
- Small Claims hearing notices, which are now being mailed at least 28 days in advance of the hearing.

MTT Listserve

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A copy of the amended rules is attached to this Listserve. A copy of the complete Tribunal's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as revised, will be posted on the Tribunal's website as soon as possible.

The Tribunal is also pleased to announce the appointment of Cynthia J. Knoll as a Tribunal member. Ms. Knoll fills the Tribunal's CPA position. The Tribunal is further pleased to announce the permanent addition of Lisa Hedges to our staff. Ms. Hedges will be replacing Alexandra McWhorter as the Tribunal's Scheduling Clerk, as Ms. McWhorter has left the Tribunal to pursue an employment opportunity with the U.S. Attorney's office in Las Vegas, Nevada. We extend our best wishes to Alexandra in her pursuit of this new opportunity.

If you have colleagues or acquaintances that would benefit from keeping up-to-date with Tribunal developments, simply have them e-mail Marijo Wakley at wakleym1@michigan.gov with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, simply reply to this e-mail with the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.