

**PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON
BILL 15-817, “OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS ESTABLISHMENT AMENDMENT ACT OF
2004”**

**Before the
Committee on the Judiciary
Council of the District of Columbia**

The Honorable Kathy Patterson, Chairman

**July 6, 2004, 10:00 a.m.
Room 412, John A. Wilson Building**



**Testimony of
Daniel L. Black, Jr.
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Office of Tax and Revenue**

**Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer
Government of the District of Columbia**

Good morning, Chairman Patterson and members of the Committee on the Judiciary. I am Daniel Black, deputy chief financial officer for the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR). With me is William Bowie, acting general counsel for OTR. I am pleased to come before you on behalf of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to present testimony in support of Bill 15-817, the “Office of Administrative Hearings Establishment Amendment Act of 2004.”

Bill 15-817 provides indemnity for administrative law judges of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) from claims and suits in law or equity arising from acts or omissions in the course and scope of their official duties, other than willful or bad faith misconduct.

As you know, OTR tax appeal cases are to be transferred to OAH on October 1, 2004. To facilitate the transition, the engrossed version of Bill 15-817 includes language that clarifies the office’s jurisdiction over tax appeal cases.

OTR and OAH worked collaboratively to develop this amendment, as well as a number of other tax-related provisions to further address any ambiguities in process, procedure or authority, and we would be happy to discuss these points with the committee at your convenience.

Chairman Patterson, this concludes my prepared statement. We thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mr. Bowie and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.