

Jim Buttonow, CPA

NATP contributing expert – IRS representation and tax controversy
Owner, JL Buttonow CPA PLLC
Summerfield, NC

About

Jim Buttonow, CPA, CITP, is a nationally recognized expert in tax representation, IRS procedures and controversy resolution. As NATP's contributing expert on representation and IRS systems, Buttonow equips practitioners and the media with clear, practical insights into audits, notices, collections, penalties, identity theft cases and IRS modernization.

With more than 39 years of experience, including two decades in IRS compliance enforcement leadership positions, Buttonow is known for his deep understanding of how IRS systems work behind the scenes. His work focuses on identifying operational friction points, translating complex IRS processes into plain language and helping tax professionals advocate effectively for their clients.

Buttonow has served in key national roles, including:

- IRS Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee (ETAAC)
- IRS Taxpayer Advocacy Panel
- IRS Security Summit workgroups
- Industry coalitions on modernization, identity theft and taxpayer experience
- Advisor and commentator for tax industry technology initiatives

His insights regularly appear in major outlets, including The Wall Street Journal, CNBC, Bloomberg Tax, Accounting Today and Forbes, where he is frequently called upon to explain emerging IRS policies, taxpayer risks, and systemic challenges.

Fast facts

- Expertise: Taxpayer representation, audits, collections, post-filing issues.
- Experience: More than 39 years in tax representation, including 19 years at the IRS; owner of JL Buttonow CPA PLLC; author of "The Tax Problems & Solutions Handbook" and "The IRS Collection Solutions Handbook."
- Role at NATP: NATP's go-to expert on IRS representation, helping tax professionals understand audits and collections, and what happens after a return is filed.
- Previous roles: IRS Tax Exempt and Governmental Agencies Division; chair, IRS ETAAC; member, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel

Expertise and commentary topics

IRS controversy and enforcement

- Responding to audits, collections and IRS notices with accuracy and confidence.
- Tools and strategies for reducing taxpayer penalties and resolving disputes.

- How practitioners can navigate offers in compromise and installment agreements.

Post-filing taxpayer support

- What to do when the IRS makes an error or delays a response.
- Practitioner tips for tracking IRS correspondence and avoiding resolution delays.
- Client education strategies for surviving tax controversy situations.

IRS modernization and practitioner access

- How technology is changing IRS systems, practitioner portals and response timelines.
- IRS access issues, including CAF number delays, transcript delivery and secure messaging.
- Trends in digital communication and its effects on tax representation.

Taxpayer rights and ethical practice

- The preparer's role in protecting taxpayer rights during enforcement.
- Best practices for maintaining ethical boundaries while advocating for clients.
- What every taxpayer should understand about due process in IRS representation.

Media contact

sstrong@natptax.com | 800-558-3402, ext. 1178 (office) | 608-516-6125 (cell)

Headshot:

