

Scott Mezistrano, CPP
Senior Manager of Government Relations
American Payroll Association

Scott Mezistrano represents payroll professionals before the U.S. Congress, the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security. His goal is to minimize administrative burden for employers while supporting government initiatives.

Recent successes include convincing the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees to deliver 2009 stimulus funds to taxpayers by changing the income tax withholding tables (as opposed to other, more burdensome ideas being considered); persuading the IRS not to treat a choice of pay schedule by employees of educational institutions as nonqualified deferred compensation; getting the IRS to add a warning to employees on Form W-4 that they may not request withholding as only a flat amount or percentage; and persuading DHS to clarify that an employer may choose to implement E-Verify at select work locations (as opposed to "all or none").

Issues he is currently working on include lobbying for a bill that would exempt employees from the taxes of states and localities in which they are only temporarily working; urging the IRS to develop a separate Form W-4 for nonresident aliens; and petitioning the IRS for improvements to proposed regulations on cafeteria plans.

In addition, Scott coordinates the work of APA members who serve on the Government Affairs Task Force and who represent the APA on IRS advisory committees.

He has testified on behalf of payroll professionals at hearings conducted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, has served on the IRS' s Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee, and has received the IRS' s "Excellence in Partnering" award.

Scott is an instructor for two of the APA' s most popular training seminars, *Preparing for Year-End* and *Payroll Issues for Multi-State Employers*, and he writes for APA publications. He has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *CNN Money*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *USA Today*, and numerous payroll and tax trade publications, and he has been interviewed on television for National Payroll Week.

Since entering the payroll profession in 1986, Scott has served as the payroll manager for companies as large as 30,000 employees spread over 30 states. Before joining the APA in 1997, he was an editor for the *Payroll Administration Guide* and *Payroll Library on CD*, published by BNA. He has held the Certified Payroll Professional designation since 1990. He also holds a B.A. in business administration from the University of Washington.

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