

Media Advisory

Comptroller Franchot to Join Advocates for Expansion of Legal Tax Clinics

*Free low-income taxpayer clinics at University of
Baltimore and University of Maryland law schools and
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service can now help resolve
complicated state legal tax issues*

WHO: Comptroller Peter Franchot
Deputy Comptroller Sharonne Bonardi
Senator Craig Zucker
Delegate Samuel "Sandy" Rosenberg
Donald B. Tobin, Dean, University of Maryland Francis King Carey
School of Law
Ronald Welch, Dean, University of Baltimore School of Law
Janice Shih, Director, Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic at Maryland
Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS)

WHAT: Comptroller Franchot will participate in a press conference on
Tuesday afternoon to recognize the expansion of services for three
low-income taxpayer clinics serving residents throughout Maryland
in need of free legal tax services.

Legislators passed [Senate Bill 480](#) and [House Bill 421](#) during the
2021 General Assembly session to provide equal funding to the
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, the
University of Baltimore School of Law and the Maryland Volunteer
Lawyers Service (MVLS) for the expansion of low-income taxpayer
clinics to give legal assistance on state-specific tax issues. Previously,
the clinics could only offer assistance to those with federal tax issues
and disputes, because they were funded by the IRS.

The law allocates \$250,000 in state unclaimed property proceeds for

this year and next year. It gives tax clinics the ability to assist low-income Marylanders at no cost with state-specific legal problems who don't have the means or simply don't understand complicated tax issues, such as MVA holds, audits, Earned Income Tax Credit denials, tax identity theft and more.

Representatives from each tax clinic site will be available for interviews. A client who has been helped through the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at MVLS is also available for media interviews.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 5, 2021
1 p.m.

WHERE: University of Baltimore School of Law
1401 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

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