

Doucette Named To IRS Taxpayer Advocacy Panel

Justin Doucette, the incoming chairman of the Nevada Restaurant Association, has been named by the Executive Office of the U.S. Treasury to serve on the newly expanded Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. A certified public accountant by education and training, Doucette currently holds the position of chief financial officer and is a partner in Celebrity Chef Mark Miller's Coyote Cafe restaurants in Las Vegas, Nev., and Santa Fe, N.M.

Chosen from a field of 1,300 applicants, Doucette was selected to be the Nevada panel member. Each state was allotted one panel member position for each 1.9 million taxpayers residing in that state. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is a federally approved independent advisory panel charged with providing direct citizen input into Internal Revenue Service decision making. The panel position is a non-paid volunteer position and each panel member agrees, in writing, to commit no less than 300 hours per year to serving the purpose of the panel.

Doucette became keenly aware of tax issues facing restaurant owners and operators when he became a partner in



Nevada Restaurant Association incoming Chairman Justin Doucette

Coyote Cafe in 1997. While pursuing his Master's Degree in 2000, Doucette penned a study of tip-reporting issues facing restaurant operators of the Bubble Room and Fior d'Italia, which at that time was preparing its appeal to the federal court. Doucette has been an advocate for the curtailment of employer-only assessments for payroll taxes on tips. "We need to constantly be in front of the IRS and

our elected representatives to make sure that the IRS is using its powers responsibly, ethically, and with constant consideration of fairness. I jumped at the chance to represent restaurateurs on this panel," says Doucette.