

Biden to nominate Batchelder, Davidson for Treasury posts

In two much-anticipated Treasury Department appointments, President Biden announced March 11 that he will nominate Lily Batchelder as the assistant secretary for tax policy and Jonathan Davidson as the assistant secretary for legislative affairs. Both have spent time in senior roles on Capitol Hill and assisted with the Biden administration's transition process.

Batchelder is currently a tax law professor at New York University, where her work focuses on "personal income taxes, wealth transfer taxes, business tax reform, retirement savings, social insurance, and the effects of fiscal policy on economic insecurity, income disparities, and intergenerational mobility," according to the Biden administration's announcement. Working to reduce income inequality is something that both the administration and congressional Democrats have cited as part of their tax policy goals.

After time in tax law practice at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and a previous stint at NYU, Batchelder spent 2010 to 2015 in Washington first as the Democrats' chief tax counsel at the Senate Finance Committee under then-Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., and then as deputy director of the White House National Economic Council and deputy assistant to President Obama.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur is expected to serve as acting assistant secretary until Batchelder is formally nominated and confirmed by the Senate.

Davidson has spent more than two decades working in the Senate, where he currently serves as chief of staff to Finance Committee member Michael Bennet, D-Colo. Previously, he was chief of staff to then-Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., and Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Md., and chief counsel to Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va.

During the Biden administration's transition, Batchelder headed up the IRS transition team and Davidson led the economic nominations confirmation team.

— Storme Sixeas
Tax Policy Group
Deloitte Tax LLP

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