

Robert Kovacev Discusses Accountability Executive Order in Tax Regulations in Tax Notes

"Trump's 'Accountability' Exec Order Said to Bypass Tax Guidance"

TAX NOTES

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Robert Kovacev discussed whether President Trump's recent executive order (EO) on agency accountability is expected to significantly alter the tax regulatory process. The EO, signed on February 18, asserts that only the president and attorney general can determine the official legal interpretations of regulations and guidance. According to Kovacev, since the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Tax Division already report through the executive branch, the EO's impact likely will be minimal. Kovacev characterized the EO as "not exactly earth-shattering" for tax law, noting that the attorney general already has oversight over tax legal interpretations. He also suggested that ongoing reviews by the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) could help curb regulatory overreach.