



**Illinois Independent
Tax Tribunal**

*James M. Conway
Chief Administrative Law Judge*

*160 N. La Salle Street Room N506
Chicago, Illinois 60601*

*Phone: (312) 814-4285
Fax: (312) 814-4768
Email: James.Conway@
Illinois.gov*

September 4, 2019

Honorable John Hollman
Acting Clerk of the House
402 Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Honorable Tim Anderson
Secretary of the Senate
401 Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal Annual Report
to the General Assembly for FY19

Dear Sirs:

I am providing certain statistics for the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal for fiscal year 2019 as required by §1-85 of the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal Act of 2012 (35 ILCS 1010/1-85).

The Tax Tribunal was created by the General Assembly to provide a fair and impartial forum for taxpayers to litigate their disputes with the Illinois Department of Revenue. The Tax Tribunal, in addition to being an independent state agency, is an administrative law court under the executive branch of Illinois government. Its purpose is to resolve tax disputes in an open and transparent manner and to conduct prompt hearings when matters cannot be settled between the parties.

The Tax Tribunal began functioning as a court on January 2, 2014. There are currently two administrative law judges appointed to the Tax Tribunal. Cases

filed with the Tax Tribunal follow the procedural rules of the Illinois Supreme Court, the Illinois Rules of Civil Procedure and the Tax Tribunal's own Rules.

Most civil court matters are resolved during or following discovery and prior to trial. The Tax Tribunal's caseload is following that trend. The majority of cases filed with the Tax Tribunal are settled or dismissed prior to an evidentiary hearing or through dispositive summary judgment motions.

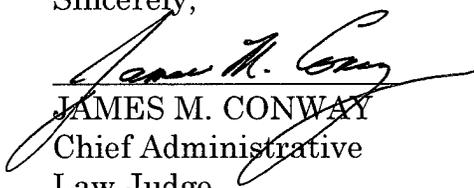
Fiscal year 2019 represents the fifth full fiscal year of the Tax Tribunal for which there are twelve months of statistics available.

The Tax Tribunal took in 175 new matters in FY19 which have an aggregate dollar value of \$115,234,614 in potential taxes, interest, and penalties. 197 matters were closed in FY19.

A main goal of the Tax Tribunal is to resolve most matters within two years. Over its five and one-half years, the Tribunal has taken in 1,201 matters and it has closed out 909 cases, or 75% of its cases.

While the length of litigation time for any one case is impossible to predict and many factors which can decide the length of litigation are outside the control of the Tax Tribunal, the Tax Tribunal will continue to provide a forum for taxpayers to litigate their cases as efficiently as possible while being a court system that allows each party a full opportunity to litigate their case. During FY19, the Tax Tribunal reduced its overall inventory of pending matters from 314 cases to 292 cases, with open cases having an average overall age of only 18 months.

Sincerely,


JAMES M. CONWAY
Chief Administrative
Law Judge

Enclosure- §1-85 reportable statistics

Via email: reports@ilga.com

**Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal
FY 2019**

1. Number of Cases Opened: 175
2. Number of Cases Closed: 197
3. Size of Docket (at year end): 292
4. Average Age of Case: 18 months
5. Cases Decided for Department: 1
6. Cases Decided for Taxpayers: 0
7. Cases Resolved through Mediation or Settlement: 104
8. Dollar Amounts of Cases by Tax Type¹²:

Tax Type	Cases Filed	Total Dollars
Employment Tax	1	\$ 15,987
Income	59	83,962,147
Motor Fuel	7	4,400,182
Sales	65	18,104,942
Tobacco Products	1	1,039,592
Uniform Penalty and Interest	36	6,481,484
Use	<u>6</u>	<u>1,230,280</u>
Total	<u>175</u>	<u>\$115,234,614</u>

¹ The Department of Revenue assesses interest and, if deemed applicable, penalties when it issues its Notices of Liabilities to taxpayers. Those amounts are included in the calculation of total dollar amounts per case.

² The Tax Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear matters involving 22 tax statutes. 35 ILCS 1010/1-45. In FY19, cases were filed that involved 7 of those tax statutes.