

Kurt is the current Chair of the Hawaii Council of Revenues and was the former Director of Taxation, State of Hawaii, 2003-2010. Subsequent to serving as tax director, Kurt was a Principal (i.e., Partner) with the Beverly Hills law firm of Hochman, Salkin, Rettig, Toscher & Perez, PC until returning to Hawaii in 2016. He was also the Supervisor of the Attorney General's Tax & Charities Division (1999-2003), and a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division (1986-1992).

Kurt's law practice includes advising clients on international and domestic (federal, state and local) taxation, business, and estate planning, and representing clients in civil and criminal tax controversies before the IRS, state tax departments, administrative boards, and federal and state trial and appellate courts.

Kurt is a fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel and a Certified Specialist, Taxation Law, State Bar of California Board of Specialization. He earned his graduate law degree in taxation (LL.M. in Taxation) from Georgetown University Law Center. Kurt has served as chair of the Hawaii State Bar Tax Section and the HSCPA Tax Committee (as well as serving as a director), and been on the Advisory Board of the Hawaii Tax Institute, the UCLA Annual Tax Controversy Institute, served as a director of the California Society of CPAs Los Angeles Chapter Asian Business Forum and State Bar of California Tax Section Executive Committee, and Chair of the Washington, D.C. Delegation 2018. In addition to earning awards from the AICPA and HSCPA, Kurt was the President of the Western States Association of Tax Administrators (i.e., association of state revenue departments in the Western United States).

Kurt has spoken at many national, state and local taxation conferences including the NYU State & Local Taxation Institute, Georgetown Advanced State & Local Taxation Institute, UCLA Tax Controversy Institute, California Bar Tax Section's Annual Meeting and the Annual Estate and Gift Tax Conference, and the Hawaii Tax Institute. He has also been a lecturer at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Richardson School of Law, and the Shidler College of Business Administration, School of Accountancy, Graduate Program, and teaches taxation courses including Multijurisdictional (international and state and local taxation), Partnership and S Corporation Taxation, Estate and Gift Taxation and Planning, Advanced Corporate Taxation, and Taxation of Entities. Kurt is a co-author of "Taxes of Hawaii: A Comprehensive Guide for Taxpayers and Tax Professionals," (2016-2024 editions), Watermark Publishing.