

Mary Howard

As the Director of the IRS's Privacy, Governmental Liaison and Disclosure Division, Mary J. Howard is responsible for managing a multi-faceted privacy program and ensuring compliance with the Privacy Act, Freedom of Information Act and Internal Revenue Code 6103.

In this role, Mary represents the IRS's interests in identity theft, information protection, disclosure and data sharing. Her organization also manages relationships with federal, state and local agencies, overseeing data-sharing programs and ensuring protection of federal tax information. Mary's organization raises awareness of identity protection issues, ensures consistency in servicewide processes and taxpayer treatment, and champions outreach, victim assistance and prevention initiatives.

In her current position, she has acquired certifications in US Government Privacy and Privacy Management from the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

Mary began her IRS career in 1988 as a revenue agent in Philadelphia and later in Boston. In 1997, she became an appeals officer in Oklahoma City and eventually managed specialized teams out of the Dallas field office. In 2005, Mary moved to Washington to become the director of Appeals Business Systems Planning and later was named the director of Tax Policy and Procedure for Collection and Processing programs in Appeals.

After graduating from the 2009 Candidate Development Program, she served in the Small Business/Self-Employed Division as director of Compliance Operations in the Philadelphia Campus, overseeing approximately 2,000 employees and nine separate compliance operations. Returning to Appeals in July of 2012, Mary stood up a directorate of Appeals Campus Operations, integrating program delivery and operations across six campus locations. She served in this capacity until her selection as PGLD director in January 2014.

Mary has a bachelor's degree in economics from Colby College, and a master's in business administration (finance & accounting) from the University of Rhode Island. She taught extensively in colleges and universities before and after coming to IRS and is a Certified Public Accountant.