Greaves Becomes Sixth Tax Court Judge Nominee

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With President Trump’s announcement that he intends to nominate Travis A. Greaves to a 15-year term on the U.S. Tax Court, the Senate now has six Tax Court judge nominees to consider.

The White House announced the nomination of Greaves, currently the Justice Department Tax Division’s deputy assistant attorney general for appellate and review, on August 27.

Before joining the Tax Division, Greaves partnered with Joshua Wu, now of Clark Hill PLC in San Antonio, to start the tax controversy firm Greaves & Wu LLP. Earlier in his career, he served as an attorney-adviser at the Tax Court. Greaves earned an LLM in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center, a JD from South Texas College of Law, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee.

Two of the now six Tax Court nominees — Elizabeth Ann Copeland, also of Clark Hill, and Patrick J. Urda, another Tax Division appellate attorney — have been approved by the Senate Finance Committee. Those two spots have been unfilled since 2015; President Obama’s nominations, including that of Copeland, were allowed to lapse without Senate action at the end of 2016.

The other three Tax Court nominees awaiting Senate action are Courtney Dunbar Jones, Emin Toro, and current Tax Court Judge Mark V. Holmes. Holmes is awaiting approval of his second 15-year term after the lapse of his first.

The number of Tax Court vacancies may be interfering with the Tax Court’s work, according to one judge.